DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 313 919 FL 800 027

AUTHOR	Gross, Tracy, Ed.
TITLE	ILGWU Student Magazine, 1987/88.
INSTITUTION	International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, New York, NY.
PUB DATE	89
NOTE	176p.; Numerous photographs and drawings will not reproduce well.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Materials (For Learner) (051) -- Collected Works - Serials (022)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC08 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Acculturation; Adult Students; Creative Writing; English (Second Language); Entry Workers; Expository Writing; Family (Sociological Unit); Fashion Industry; *Immigrants; *Labor Education; Land Settlement; Letters (Correspondence); Literacy Education; Needle Trades; Personal Narratives; Student Attitudes; *Student Developed Materials; *Student Publications; Unions; Work Experience
IDENTIFIERS	*International Ladies Garment Workers Union

ABSTRACT

The student magazine of the educational program sponsored by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) is a collection of student writings. The writings are divided into the following topics: life journeys (Our Countries, Coming to the United States, and Our New Country); Our Lives (autobiographies, parents, family, remembering childhood); daily activities; work (first jobs in New York City, the union); education; poetry, myths, and stories; editorials; and letters of complaint, protest, and advice. (MSE)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED313919

ILGWU

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
Worker-Family Education Program

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
● Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy

STUDENT MAGAZINE

1987/88

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Gross, T
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

FL800027

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Congratulations ILGWU students on
the excellent writings and drawings
which you contributed to this years
student magazine.

It is a great pleasure and source of pride
for us, the Education Staff, to be a part
of this very special project.

Felicitaciones estudiantes del ILGWU
por las obras y dibujos excelentes que
contribuyeron a la revista de estudiantes
de este ano.

Es un gran placer y orgullo para nosotros
de la Administracion Educacional, ser
parte de este proyecto especial.

親愛的工友、同學們：

恭喜！

歡迎英文班同學在本年度的學生雜誌中踴躍投稿，發表優秀的寫作和插圖。作為教育部員工之一份子，我們至為喜悅，並深深引以為傲！

Tracy Gross, Education Project Director
Sonia Figueroa, Administrator
Deidre Freeman, Curriculum Developer
Barbara Leff, Curriculum Developer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank all the teachers who worked with the students on this writing project for their special effort and support As always, their participation was vital to a successful outcome.

We also would like to thank the following people for their help on this magazine:

Rosa Mejias

Cara Metz

The Teamsters, Local 237 &
The Consortium for Worker Education

The Education Directors of the ILGWU

and the Board of Education, MAC, and SED
for their continued funding.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIFE JOURNEYS................1

Our Countries.............12
Coming to the U.S. 39
Our New Country...........41

OUR LIVES..................62

Autobiographies...........63
Parents...................75
Family....................78
Remebering Childhood......88

DAILY ACTIVITIES...........91

WORK......................100

Our First Jobs in NYC....107
The Union................109

EDUCATION.................113

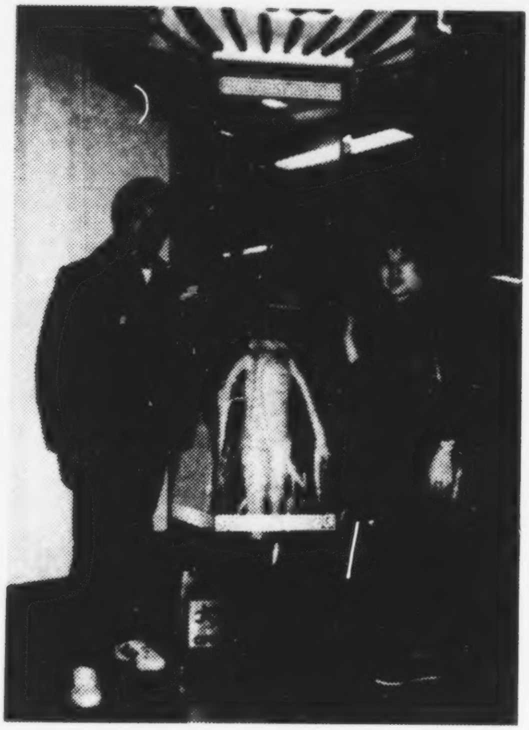
POETRY AND LITERATURE......124

Poetry...................125
Myths....................135
Stories..................138

EDITORIALS................144

LETTERS...................153

LIFE JOURNEYS



This photo was taken on November 3rd. 1986 at Korean airport when I left Hong Kong for New York. I took the Korean airline and made a transfer at Korea. Thus I waited at Korean airport for three hours. Since I had a lot of time, I took this photo and bought some ginsengs at the duty-free shop.

In Korea ginseng is very popular. In this photo you can find some Chinese characters. In fact they are Korean characters. The man standing next to me is my brother.

by Mei Lok Sit

PAST

My name is Marie and I was born when my mother and father had twin girls. My name is Marie and my twin sister's name is Cecilia. We were always together, never separated. We would always go to school together but she died when she was six. I felt very depressed for a very long time. I even became sick and my father had to take me to the hospital in Port-Au-Price.

PRESENT

I live in Brooklyn. I work at Speadmark in New Jersey at the Meadowlands Parkway. I have four children. The oldest is 19. Then my next child is 17, then 12 and my youngest is 11. My rent is $550. per month. I have 3 bedrooms, one living room and one kitchen.

FUTURE

I don't know. I try my best for my kids if God willing, I will help my kids find their schools. I will try to give them everything they want. They are the best.

by Marie D. Bertrand

PAST

When I came to New York in 1964, I had a lot to do. I had to find an apartment for my husband and my two daughters. I had to get the apartment ready. Then I had to look for a job. My husband found a job printing in plastic. I found a job working a sewing factory. Then I had to look for a school for my daughters. In 1965 we bought a house in Brooklyn. In 1966 my third daughter was born.

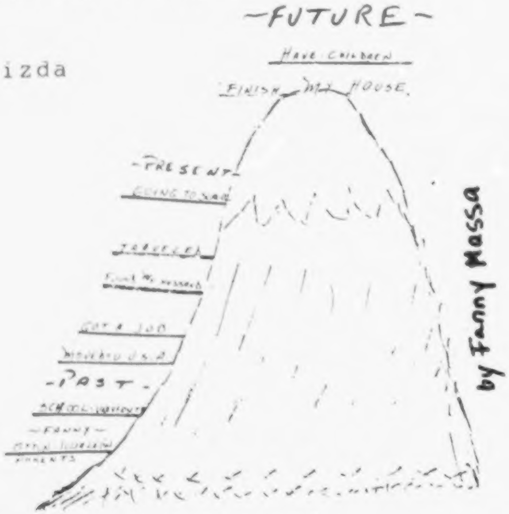
PRESENT

My first daughter is married, she has two daughters. She lives in Florida. My second daughter lives in Houston and works for Aero Mexico, the airline, but it closed. My third daughter is in Brooklyn College my husband died six years ago of a heart attack. He was only 50 years old. Now I live with my daughter and my sister.

FUTURE

I want the good life, I want to stay healthy. I want to make enough money to buy what I need. Maybe some day I can live with my family.

by T. Hormizda



My name is Fanny Massa, my parents names are Julia and Otton Leon, I was born in Ecuador. My school is still in my mind, because there I had many friends. My parents, brothers and sisters have always been there. I remember too much my **PAST**.

In my **PRESENT** I have many things: I came to New York and found a job. I met my husband and I'm very happy with him.

Oh! My **FUTURE**, I want a better job and I want to have a family. I want to learn and speak very good English.

by Fanny Massa

ABOUT MYSELF

My name is Ying Sim Yip. I was born in China. I grew up in a small village. I have brown eyes and long hair. I like my long hair very much.

I began school when I was nine years old. I studied at school about nine years. In school I had many friends. In our spare time we usually went swiming together. We always had a wonderful time.

When I was eighteen years old my family moved to Hong Kong. We only left my grandmother alone in the village. I missed my grandmother because she brought me up. We lived in Kowloon for about three years. I worked in a sewing factory during those years.

In 1980 we moved to the United States. I was unhappy, I still missed my grandmother and my friends. I didn't speak one word of English. I began to study English at night twice a week and I worked in a factory during the day. I wanted to speak Engish well, so I studied hard. Now I speak some English.

Six years ago I got married and now I have two children Last year I went back to the village to visit my grandmother and my friends with my family. We had a good time. Now I'm very happy in the United States.

by Ying Sim Yip

PAST

I am from Ecuador. I was born in my house 23 years ago. I lived in a small house with my father and my mother. When I was young, I wanted to learn how to be a tailor; I also wanted to be important, that's why I came to America.

PRESENT

I'm studying English and I'm a sample maker. In my free time I read history books about North America. I also help my parents with the finances.

FUTURE

In the future, I hope to be able to speak and write English very well. I hope I can return to my country and teach English.

by Carlos W. Peralta

THE EXPERIENCE OF A STRANGER IN THE U.S.A.

I'm going to introduce myself, my name is Arturo A. Herrera. I'm from Guatemala. Guatemala is the largest country in Central America and its size is like Ohio. It is also the richest country in natural resources including nickel and oil. Our population is about 8 million people. Over half of the Guatemalans are of Indian decent, from the Mayan civilization, yet we speak over 16 different dialects.

I was born in Huehuetenango. When I was one year old my mother bought me to Mexico. We lived in Mexico for 19 years, my mother died when I was only 6 years old. I lived with my grandfather until I was 20 years old. After my grandfather died I had to go back to Guatemala.

Since 1961 I started working in the industry of hotels and restaurants. I was president of the union because I was involved in the leadership of the union for 12 years.

In 1976 I was invited by the AFL-CIO and when I came to the United States I came with a scholarship. I felt very enthusiastic because I saw the opportunity of knowing the wonder of the world and I got more interested in knowing the story of this country. Because according to our story in Guatemala the United States first major intrusion into Guatemala's affair was in 1954, when the CIA and the United Fruit Company engineered the overthrow of Guatemala's last freely elected government. The first time when I came to the United States in 1976 I visited North Carolina VA., Williamsburg VA., Maryland, the Shenandoha. I have always been interested in the grammar story of English because I wanted to be a professional in this country.

Then I came to the United States of America in 1980. Now after 7 years I have more ideas about this country because I like that the Constitution says. It says that every person in the United States has basic rights under the U.S. Constitution federal and state laws. Now I am attending the course of English computer techniques and I want to be a citizen of this country.

by A. H.

I came to this country to visit my relatives. I saw my future in this land. This is true. I found a wonderful husband. We have two children. They are going to college. My husband and I work hard to pay their school.

I want to learn English. I go to school twice a week. I would like to write and read, and to speak very good English and speak with everyone as well as my teacher does.

December 22nd is a day I will always remember because I became a citizen of the United States. I love America, it is a good place to live. The right place to be and work.

by Carmela Palma

PAST

I am one of the last children of a large family. I was born in a very little town named Cuevas de St. Marcos, which belonged to Malaga City, in Southern Spain.

I don't know the time I was born. My mother was too busy to tell me that. My childhood was like any other one at that period of time. Everything was bad for everybody because it was just after the Spanish Civil War.

From the little town we moved to a big city named Madrid. When I was eighteen years old my parents let me go to France. I stayed there for two years and tried to learn French. Then in 1968, I came to the United States and I worked in different places. Also I attended many night schools, but so far I'm still a beginner.

PRESENT

At present I'm stuck in a company without any future. I'm working very hard and under too much pressure. So, as you see, I am not too happy about present.

FUTURE

In my future I would like to have an early retirement and have time for my hobbies, like traveling, painting, cooking, and most of all lying down on the beach back in my country for the rest of my life.

by Filomena Sanchez

PAST

I am an Ecuadorian lady from a big family, I'm third of four children, three boys and me. I was a student at Catholic School for fourteen years. Then I married and went to live in another city. I lived very happily because I had children.

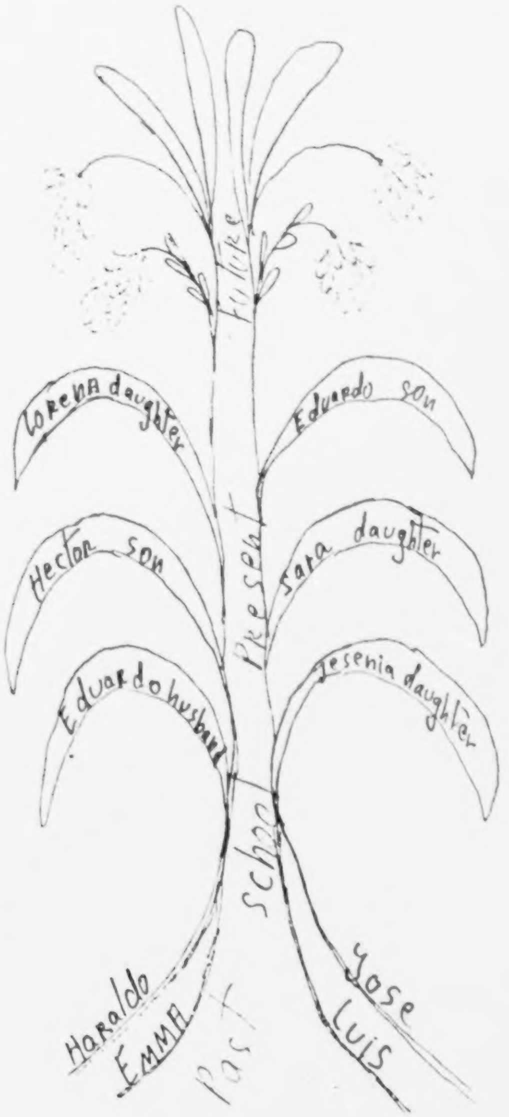
PRESENT

Now I'm in the United States and my life is much more difficult. I have to work outside and in my home, but I'm glad because I have a very nice family.

FUTURE

In my future I only want to have a lot of grandchildren. I want everyone of my children to have a home like me

by Emma Feijoo



the map of my life

From: Emma Feijóo

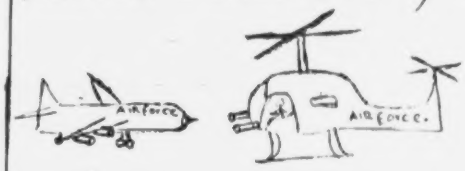
October 29th/87

"Boris' Life Journey"

I was born in El Salvador
May 29th 1965.
December 1982 → 17 years old
I finished high school

HIGH school.

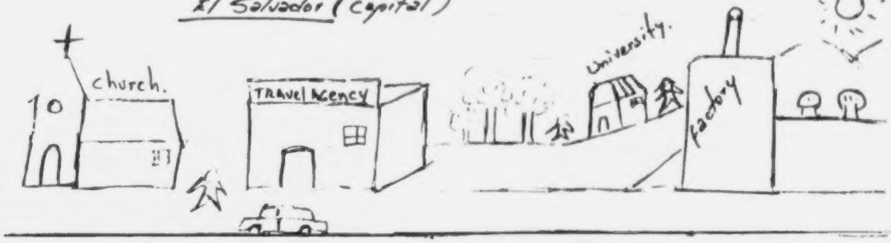
January 24th 1983 to May 29 1985
I went to the Airforce to study
Aviation. I wanted to be a pilot.



I spent two years studying. but. I didn't finish my course. because I had personal Problems. I was very sad.

4 months Later September 1985
I left the airforce. ~~and~~ and
I went to look for a job in the city. It was very hard. I found a
Job n Delivering Company as a messenger.

El Salvador (capital)



I worked in that company as a messenger for only 2 months. but I didn't like it, so, I left. I needed to earn more money and get a better life. On November 21 1985 I left my country to come to the United states.

"El SAlVADOR AIRPORT"

747 TACA INTERNATIONAL.

Continued on Next page. →

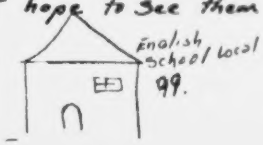
"LA GUARDIA Airport" New York City.

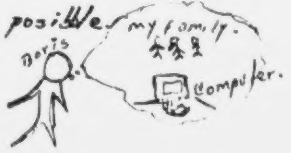
I arrived At La Guardia Airport N.y city at 7:00 P.M
my family was waiting for me and we got home. I was happy
to see them.

New York City.

December 1985 to October 1987
I started to look for a job
and I found one in a supermarket
Then I left it because I didn't like it.
Then I found another job in factory.
I still have the job because I'm a Union worker, I have beney
I have English Classes to improve my English.

October 1987 → Today I have my own family, I go to school to learn more english and I hope to become a professional in computers. But. I still think about my family in El Sal
I hope to see them as soon as posible


English school local 99.



This composition is about my life. I was born in a small town in Santo Domingo. Later, I went to live with my older sister so I could go to school because my parents lived in the country. I studied in an Evangelical high school and finished in 1978.

Then I studied beauty school for two years. I graduated in April 27, 1986 at the Hotel Sheraton. I had practice during study in the beauty parlor. I took English in the Institute of Santo Domingo. My brother brought me over here and now I'm studying English with the union program, to learn better communication and get a better job.

by Ursula Severino

MY DIFFICULT DREAM

Hello, my name is Olga Lemus. I'm from El Salvador, I'm so happy with the Amnesty because this was my difficult dream to be legal in U.S.A. Now thank God I have a good job in Wall Street, I work in the office and every day I learn something new.

I have my own apartment. I'm not afraid to have bills in my name. I have freedom. I sleep well.

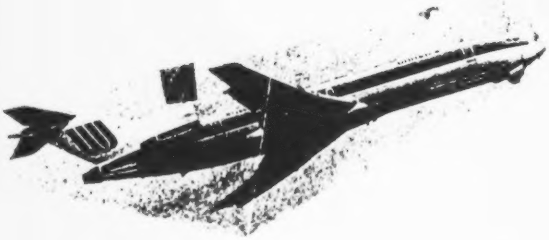
I make castles in the air about my future. I'm not afraid of anybody, I want to speak English better. I want to travel, I want to see my daughters, to squeeze my mother, my brothers, my good friends, I haven't seen them in eight years. I wish November could be around the corner because my family is my country El Salvador.

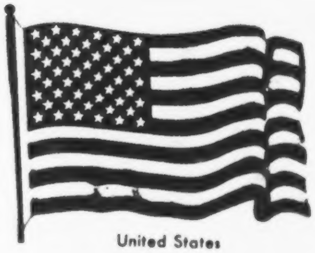
Thank you United States, thank you New York, if I can do it here, I can do it anywhere.

God bless the ILGWU because I was one of them and I am still in my heart one of them.

by Olga Lemus

1932





1971

I am Fabiola Soto. I was born in Ecuador, South America. It's a beautiful country. And I love it very much. I went to school and after that I worked as a sales person in the shoe store. I got married when I was 20 years old. Personal and financial problems changed the course of my life.

In 1971 I decided to come to the U.S. and took a flight to New York. I arrived at Kennedy Airport where my friends were waiting for me. They took me to their home. They helped me to find a job and after three years I went back to my country and brought my six children with me. I knew that this is a land of opportunity so they should take advantage and get a good education. That was my dream.

I had to work hard because I wanted my children to learn English and have a career. I didn't want that they worked hard in a factory like me. Thank God my children understood my sacrafice and made me feel proud and happy. My first son Oscar actually studies social work in La Guardia Community College. My daughter, Lupe, actually works in jewelry. She traveled to Bhankok, Thailand, to supervise and train the workers to make rope chains. My daughter Gina graduated from college in my country. When she came her, first she learned English and studied word processing. Now she is working as a secretary at the Irving Trust Bank. My son Ivan is a teller in the Bank of Credit of Peru.

My daughter Carla went to Hill Crest High School and then she went to Pace University to study computer programming and got a BB.AA. She is working as an assistant analyst in the city hospitals administration. And my last son is still studying at City College of New York.

For a single parent it is very difficult to raise a family but with the help of God, I can make a dream come true.

All I can say is: GOD BLESS AMERICA

by Fabiola Soto

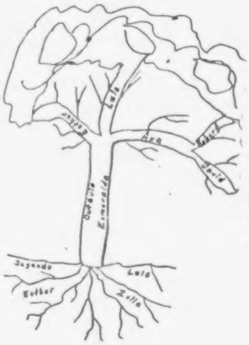
MY ROOTS

My roots are from different parts of the world. My parents were born in Ecuador. They worked very hard to have a better life. One day they decided to leave Ecuador and go to the U.S.A.

Our life in the U.S.A. is difficult because we have to learn a new language and values.

I would like to be a teacher, get a good job in this country.

by Esther Ruget



by E. Ruget

THE HISTORY OF MY LIFE

My name is Gregoria L. Antigua from the Dominican Republic. All my studies were made there.

I am a cashier and a receptionist. I got married when I was 25 years old. I have three children. My husband and I were students together. Later my husband came to the U.S. and I was very lonely with my children. After five years, I came too, and two years after I brought my children and we are very happy together.

I am studying English to improve myself. We like to work hard to live well and give a good future to our sons. I am happy with everything.

by Gregoria L. Antigua

My name is Gonzalo Soto. When I was living in my country Guatemala. I was thinking to visit and to know the United States.

It was October 15, 1981 when I came here and the first state I visited was Los Angeles, CA. I wasn't there for a long time, only for two months. Soon I got out to Chicago.I was over there with my cousins for 15 days. After that I came to New York to be with my mother and brother. I am happy that I am over here in New York. I made some trips to the Statue of Liberty, to museums and the zoo. At the present time I am working and studying English and I'm very happy. I want to speak English very soon to get a better future.

OUR COUNTRIES

I came from Sicily, Italy. She is an island which is separated by the Canal of Messina. Her capital is Palermo.

Years ago Sicily was invaded by the Greek, where they left many historical monuments. The climate is warm all year and for that reason Sicily produces many vegetables and fruits. The most famous place is La Conca d'Oro (The Gold Coast). The place is near Palermo. It has a large part of the ground covered with orange, lemon, tangerine, and other types of fruit trees. Since the sun shines on the trees all day, and the climate is warm all year round, the fruits have an excellent taste. The fruits are transported to all of Europe. For this reason, it has the name of La Conca d'Oro.

Sicily, like Italy, has cities full of art. You can find many sculptures and paintings. She also has l'Etna, a volcano that years ago became active and distressed the city of Taormina. Today you can still see the places where the lava reached; some of the places like the old theater. Today it is restored and it became the main tourist attraction because in the summer there are preformances under an open sky.

Sicily is also rich in minerals and marble. The food is fresh and excellent. The Mediterranean Sea is as blue as is the sky. The beaches are clean and numerous. Tourists from all over the world enjoy the summer. I would like to return for an entire summer to visit the places where I grew up, renew my memories and restore them, and someday share them with my grandchildren.

by Antonia Vita

Look at the picture.
This is the "Great Wall" of China.
It's a world-famous building.
It's from east to west, traverses the China-Continent.
It's about one thousand miles long.
It has more than two thousand years of history.
This is mankind arrogant.

by Li Liu

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This country is an island including Haiti. They are separated by a river. But they are completely different in language and religion. The weather is hot in the winter. The capital is Santo Domingo. There are one million people in the capital and in the whole country there are six million people. The principal city is Santiago. It is about two hours from the capital. The music is merenge and folklore. They speak Spanish and in some areas they speak English too. In the capital there are taxis or public cars. They make many stops when they are empty. They carry the people in both seats, back and front at all times. The bullet proof protection is unnecesary because of the low fare. The buses are very comfortable and air conditioned. It is very good. You have to buy a ticket in the bus station for your destination. There are many hotels and too many tourists, especially in the winter. Many Americans live there. It is not dangerous , you can walk in the street and feel safe.

by Pedro Richardson

MY MEXICO QUERIDO

Mexico is located in the North American continent. Mexico has 31 states and its Capital is Mexico City. The national currency is the "peso". The principal production is based in the industries of petroleum, silver, and gold.

The Independence Day is the 16th of September. It's a very special day for us, the Mexican people who are living there and those who live abroad. The Mexican flag has three colors: green, white and red. In the middle there is an eagle. Every color has a meaning, for example, the green color represents hope, the white is purity and the red color is the blood spilled by our martyrs.

Mexico is a tourist country. There you can find many things. For example, arts and crafts and beautiful beaches.

Mexico is a beautiful country. Its doors are always open to everyone.

by Guillermo Rodriguez

MY COUNTRY

The name of my country is Taiwan or the Republic of China. It Is a beautiful little island in the Pacific Ocean. Its population is about 20 million people. Its citizens are hardworking, peaceful people. The weather in Taiwan is very warm and it never snows there. I love my country and miss it very much.

by Sandy Chun

When I was living in Cuba I felt that President Fidel Castro was a very bad man. The father of the Revolution, he killed many people. He put other people in jail. The people could not get good food to eat. We could not get meat, vegetables and fruits.

Before Castro, came the people would enjoy themselves at Carnival time. They danced in the park and ate different foods.

Today there are a lot of poor people in Cuba. They are very unhappy . They say that Castro is a devil.

by Mercedes Sanchez

MY EDUCATION

My name is Benito Brito. I was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. My story of my education is not very good because I did not finish the superior education. I had too many problems studying because I lost some years of study in those times because my country was invaded by the U.S.A. When the Revolution of 1965 was finished the school had many problems because the students everyday were having some manifestations in the school. Everything was terrible in that time and I did not go any more to the school. Now I study English because it is very important for me and my children.

by Benito Brito

HOMETOWN

I have been away from my hometown for more than three years, but I think about it and dream of it all the time. I really miss my beautiful hometown.

My hometown is in a small village in the south of China. The fertile fields are in front of the village. Different crops are grown there all year round. In the Spring people begin to plant crops, such as paddy`rice, vegetable and other crops. They are so busy , but they're happy. In the winter its not so cold as the United States - no snow.

The mountains are at the back of the village. There are a lot of pine trees, fruit trees and flowers. It looks like a picture.

The stream is near the village. It is so beautiful in the day, you can see the fish under the water. Everyday I washed the clothes there. I liked it very much.

When I was a child I always went out [illegible] play with my friends. We played many games in the mountain [illegible] We rode the bicycle too.

I miss my lovely hometown. I still [illegible] many friends there. Someday I'd like to go back there to [illegible] my old friends and relive the happy days.

I wish my hometown prosperity and i[illegible]ple happiness.

by Mu Hong Ni

DAYS GONE BY

My husband and I took a very special trip last year. We went back to Guang Zhou, China, our hometown. We were born there. We grew up there. We had been school mates. But we hadn't been back there since we finished high school.

We went to places we hadn't gone to in years. We walked through the park in the center of town and remembered the days we had played with our friends. And we stood for awhile in front of the movie theater and thought about all the Sunday evenings we had spent there sitting in the balcony - watching our favorite movie heroes, and eating candy.

We did things we hadn't done in a long time. We rode bicycles on the outskirts of the city and went swimming in the Pearl River. For a little while, we felt like kids again.

We also saw people we hadn't seen in years. We visited several of our friends and cousins. We said hello to our old neighbors who hadn't ever moved out of the neighborhood. And we even bumped into Mrs. Chen, our musical teacher. She is always kind and beautiful!

During our visit to our hometown we remembered places we hadn't gone to, things we hadn't done, and people we hadn't seen since our childhood. Our trip back to Guang Zhou was a very nostalgic experience for us. Going back to Guang Zhou brought back many memories of days gone by.

by An-li Fang

Our People

When I went to my country
my people are nice and happy to see me.
They invite me to their home to
have dinner with them.
Most of the people in my country
are Catholics.

I love my people because they help me
and, and they feel sad when I come
back to New York.
I felt sad too when I left my country
and my people.

Guatemala is nice and beautiful all
the time.
The sky is blue and the sun shines.
My people are hospitable and the
people of other countries are
equal for them.

May God fill their hearts with
sunshine and happiness.

God bless you Central America.

by Marta Gonzalez

My people for my country.

I like my people because they
are very good with me.

I am for everybody.

I like people from any country.

by Woldestrudes Rodriguez

My people are friendly
My people are nice
They are artisans
They are good constructors
My people are politicians,
engineers, lawyers.
They are Catholic people.
They are adventurous, like to
travel.

by P. Delgado

My people are a quiet people.

Our country is beautiful
the sky is blue, the stars
in Haiti are beautiful at night.

In my country no hard summer no
severe winter, no snow,
always it's a normal temperature.

They eat natural food, many people
go to the sea to fish.

I love my people and my country

by Marc Jerome

The people in my country are very good.
They help when someone is in need.

They like music, dancing and sports.

Some people like to travel to
different countries and learn
something of them.

by Victor Robalino

My people are very nice, they are
very polite persons.

The rich people like to help the poor.
When they have work for them they help
but they have to work hard.
That's why I don't like it when the
poor people work too hard.

by Rebecca

INSIDE OF THE CITY

In the city the people are different;
everybody is running to catch the
bus.
Others are selling vegetables, fruits
or whatever they want.

Others are looking to see what you
have in your package, or your money,
or your watches.

That is what you can see in the city.

by Jose

My people are very nice in the north
and in the south, but in the city
they are different.

The people in my country live i
bigger houses.

My people like to dance a lot
they are very happy.

They like to go to the beach i
summer.
The water is good in the summe

by Julio

OUT OF THE CITY

In El Salvador, my people wor
very hard.

The farmer begins to work at
5 or 6 am until 6 pm.
They carry food, water for hi
lunch.
They work for a small salary.
They work 6 days a week.
On Sunday they stay home with
families.

They are very nice with every
and very decent.

by Jose

My name is Luz Bonilla and I am from Colombia. I lived in Caracas for six years. In Caracas it is different from my country.

The people in Caracas are not very friendly. They do not know each other in the building. In my country there is a big party for the New Year. In Caracas everyone is with their family and New Years is very quiet.

In Caracas the men do not respect the girls. They try to take them home in their cars. Even the policemen try to do this.

by Luz M. Bonilla

HOW IS MY COUNTRY

My country is very big, but my town is very small but
important. I live on Liberty Street number 16. There are
rcs that were made in the XIX century by the Spaniards.
arcs are 150 mts. by .20 mts. long and tall. Next to
there is a Spanish convent but now it is used as a museum.

Tourists visit those places a lot. There is a lot of
in my town with a very good flavor, there are five
gs, but the most important there, is called the "eye", it
ces more water than the others. It's water is transported
e convent by a tube, then to the spring, it has 16 tubes,
s a different flavor.

There you can see a beautiful landscape. The tourists
my country every year. Our country is well known.

by J. Genis C.

Although there are so many differences between United States and Guatemala, the most common differences are:

First, the language in United States is English while in Guatemala it is Spanish, making it more difficult for us to communicate.

Second, here in United States there are more opportunities for people who would like to study; furthermore, this country offers financial aid to people who can not afford to go to school. On the other hand in Guatemala the financial aid does not exist . For example, most of the students there, if they want to have a better future they have to work hard to afford to go to the school.

Third, in Guatemala most of people own their houses, and they live in small communities. They almost know everybody who live there while in United States it is very usual for people to live in big buildings and they have to pay rent every month. Nevertheless, the comforts are better than in Guatemala.

Last, the weather in United States is very variable because there are four seasons and the climates are very excessive sometimes. For example, in winter time it is very cold and sometimes snows, but the real problem is when it rains because the water freezes and it is very slippery and dangerous. In summer it gets so hot that people can't stand it because sometimes it is as high as 90 degrees with humidity. Meanwhile in Guatemala there are only two seasons and it never snows and the temperatures are very moderate between 50 to 70 degrees without humidity. That's why people call it "the country of the endless spring".

All and all is very obvious all this differences between these two countries but the United States offers more opportunities and comforts than Guatemala.

by Silvia Alonzo

China is a beautiful country, it is my homeland. I was born there and grew up there. There I finished high school and had been retaining many good memories so I like it.

But I like America more than China because in here I can enjoy more freedom and democracy. I can see many people from different countries and their customs, that I have never seen before.

So I think America is an interesting country. It will be my second homeland. I want to live here forever.

Xia Qiu's class

My country is El Salvador, which is located in Central America.

Most of the people from El Salvador are very poor, sometimes they do not have food to eat or to give to their children. Most of those children do not have fathers because they were killed.

I would like to have money to help those children and those families.

by Maria Fernandez

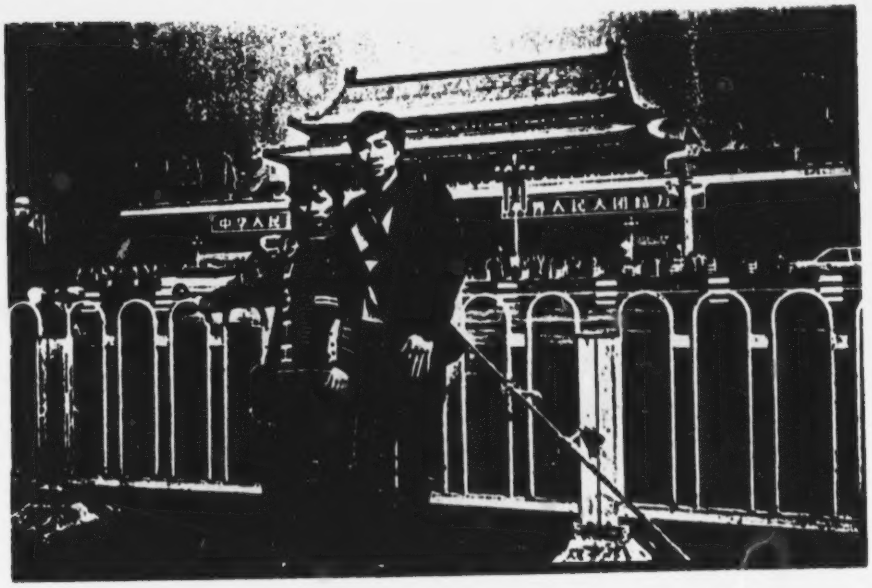
MY FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPH

In this photograph the two people are my daughter and her husband.

They were just married on March 13, 1988. They went to Beijing (Peking) for their honeymoon. Look! They are standing in front of the Beijing Tian An Mian (The Forbidden City). They were very happy. I hope they will always be happy and everlasting and unchanging.

I think this a good photograph. I will always keep it.

by Su Mei Li



My country is Colombia. In my country we celebrate a wedding in different ways. First the boy goes to the girl's house to ask her father to go out with her. If the father says no, sometimes the boy steals the girl but this does not happen very often. Sometimes people do not get married. They just live together.

At the ceremony there are brides maids and little children. The children carry the rings for the bride and groom. After the ceremony everyone goes to the brides house. There is dancing and eating. The happy couple leave to go on their honeymoon at midnight.

by Diana Henero

CARNIVAL IN ECUADOR

When it is carnival time in my country the people in my neighborhood enjoy themselves very much. They eat and drink very much. They dress up in pretty costumes and they dance in the streets.

The young people dance in the streets for three days. Other people who are not dancing throw powder and water on the dancers. These people do not get angry. When the carnival is finished everyone goes to work the next day.

by Gloria Nieto

THE DRAGON FESTIVAL

How time flies! The beginning of the year passed away so quickly.

Now the month of May is approaching. Every year when it is the month of May, it brings me back the memories of those days in China.

On the fifth of May there is a traditional Chinese holiday. It is called the Dragon Festival. On that day it would be exciting for many young men and women, also for boys and girls. Our parents were always busy with making a traditional food to celebrate this holiday.

On that day, most of us were playing with water. There, the adults were having their dragon boat races. It was fun for them. Everyone was so eager and so fast to row their boat to win the race. For the little boys and girls, they would bring the food their mothers made to the beach. They played and swam in the water, eat their delicious food and have fun chasing each other. They would spend a whole day on the beach.

Today, we don't celebrate the holiday in this country. But the food we used have still can be seen here, it will never be the same like we used to have.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AMERICAN NEW YEAR AND THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

When the celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas are over with joyfulness, the American New Year followed quietly. February sixteenth, 1988 (29 December of Lunar), is the great festival in China. The Chinese take an extreme interest in this festival.

China has been an agricultural country since ancient times. The first King Chin Loon Si taught his people how to work in agriculture. The queen, his wife, taught their people how to weave in silk for clothes. People were very obedient to the King and Quéen.

They worked out the calendar for the weather and separated it into four seasons in one year. Spring for planting, summer for growing, autumn for harvesting and winter for storing and rest.

At this time, they felt that the harvests were helped by the nature of the gods, by their ancestors. They wanted to express their thankfulness. Then, they worshipped the nature and their ancestors. They celebrated with all kinds of their harvests.

As times went by, it became a tradition and the ceremonies were never forgotten at the end of the year.

by Kitty Lee

HOLY WEEK IN EL SALVADOR

On the Sunday before Holy Week the people walk in the streets with palms. The men carry a statue of Jesus Christ on their shoulders.

On Holy Thursday the men carry the statue again. It is a silent procession. The men have lighted candles.

by Emilio Orllana

SPECIAL FOOD FOR GOOD FRIDAY

In Quito, Ecuador there was a lady named Juanita. She had a restaurant. She prepared tasty foods in her restaurant on the weekends and on holidays. Important people and politicians met in her restaurant to eat and to talk.

On Good Friday Juanita did not know what to cook. On Good Friday the people do not eat meat. She decided to cook a special meal in honor of God. She collected all the products of the earth. She used condiments and mixed everything together. The result was an excellent dish. The people called the dish Juanesca in honor of Ms. Juanita.

by Jorge Echeverria

MASS TRANSIT IN MY COUNTRY

There is a big difference in mass transit between New York and Ecuador. I like the transit system in New York, especially the buses.

The people wait in a line for the bus. They go inside very quietly. They pay the fare and take a seat. I also like how everything is automatic. The bell rings and the door opens. In Ecuador the buses stop at least three times on every street. The buses are very hot because they do not have air conditioning.

Sometimes we can smell the gas from the bus. The windows are open and the dust comes in the bus. Everyone on the bus sweats a lot. The drivers are not polite and they think they are driving on the expressway. They go very fast and the people are scared.

by Judy Salazar

In Ecuador things are very different from New York. For example, the system of education is very different. In Ecuador there are three types of education. There is education by the state and education by the Roman Catholic school. Also there is education by other private schools.

My country does not have enough schools for all the students. To solve this problem the government has three shifts in the schools. The first students go in at 7:30 am., the second group goes in at 1:15 pm, and the third group goes in at 7:15 pm.

The school year is very short. It is only one hundred and sixty five days. The students are very serious. They do not cut class a lot like they do in New York. The parents and the teachers are very strict so the students come to school every day.

by Freddy Tapia

Recipes

GREEN BANANA FRITTERS VIA BELIZE

Ingredients:

4 green bananas
pinch of salt
one cup of oil

Directions:

Peel bananas then grate. Add salt and mix. Put oil in frying pan and heat. When oil is hot, you drop mixture into the oil using a wooden spoon. Brown both sides slowly. Drain on paper towel and enjoy!!! Suggestion: Serve fritters with fried fish instead of potatoes.

by Rosita Caliz

SUSHI

I mix some vegetables, beef, fish and chopped eggs in a small pot adding spices and a little salt. Then I put the mixture on the side. On a flat surface I put a thin layer of black seaweed. On top of the seaweed I put a layer of cooked white rice. Then I arrange the mixture on top of the rice and start rolling all the layers from one end to the next. Finally, I cut one-inch-wide rolls across the long rolled up sushi bar.

by Pil Soon

CHINESE JELLO

Take one cup of water. When water boils put 1/2 Chinese jello. Then put in about one cup sugar; let it boil with about 7 fl oz of coco nut liquor. Then pour the mixture into a pan. Freeze.

by Ngwe Hee Lee

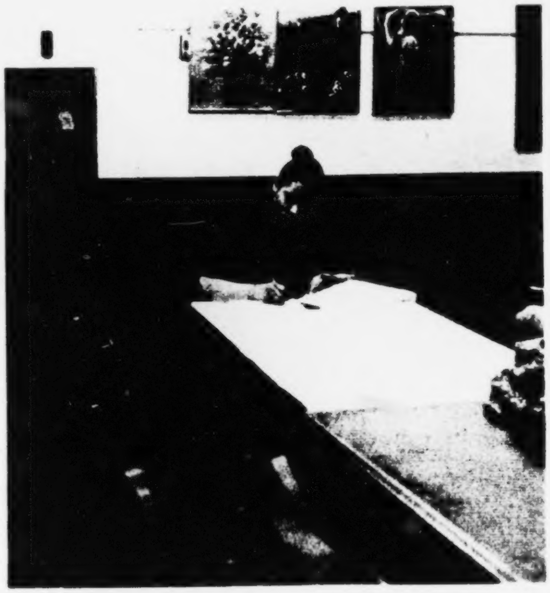
A TRADITIONAL HAITIAN SOUP

In 1804 Haiti was freed from the rule of France and became an Independent nation.

January 1, 1804 marks the birth of Haiti as a free nation. Many brave Haitian soldiers fought hard for Independence and the French were defeated. Pumpkin Soup has become the food that Haitians associate with Independence Day and many families serve it on January 1, each year.

Here is the recipe for this famous and traditional soup.

Ingredients:



1 lb. of soup meat
1 lb. of chicken
1 medium pumpkin
3 radishes
2 onions
6 carrots
1 small cabbage
3 stalks of celery
a few cloves
a piece of fat lard
a piece of non fat lard
3 scallions
1 tablespoon of butter
1 tablespoon of vinegar
1 pack of vermicelli
6 potatoes

Directions:

Wash the meat and the chicken with lemon. Season with lemon juice and spices. Bring 3 to 4 quarts of water to a boil in a large pot. Add the meat and later the chicken and the vegetables to a boiling water. Pass the pumpkin in the vegetables through a blender to get the juices. Cook the potatoes and the vermicelli separately in boiling water and combine with the larger pot. Season with salt, black pepper and hot pepper. Finish with a piece of butter.

by Solange Dietz

BREAD PUDDING FROM GUYANA

Ingredients:

1 large loaf white bread
1 can evaporated milk
2 eggs
1 cup sugar
2 ozs. raisins
2 ozs. cherries - chopped
dash of mixed essence
dash of ground cinnamon
1 greased bread tin

Directions:

Pre-heat oven to 350° C.

Mix milk, eggs, sugar until sugar melts. Add mixed essense and cinnamon and mix in. Add cherries and raisins. Next add bread to mixture a few slices at a time, pressing in with a spoon. Pour batter into pan and bake for 30 mins. until toothpick comes out clean.

by Sam Naraiwar

SWEET RICE

Ingredients:

chinese mushrooms
dried shrimp
meat
onions (scallion)
soy sauce

Directions:

Soak chinese mushrooms; cook and cut meat in thin strips; chop onions; stir fry chinese mushrooms, dried shrimps, meat, onions; then add soy sauce. Set it aside, cook sweet rice. (If you cook it in a rice cooker, rice will come out the best.) Mix rice and all the ingredients well. Eat it hot or cold.

by Shuli Wu

ROASTED DUCK FILLED WITH FRIED SWEET RICE

Ingredients:

1 roasted duck
1 lb sweet rice
1 lb cold water > put together soaked
¼ lb dried shrimp (soaked)
¼ lb dried mushroom (soaked)
¼ lb ham
1 teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons corn oil
2 tablespoons soy sauce (brand name: Wanjashan)

Directions:

Cut open the roasted duck from the neck to chest. Take out all of its bones. Keep the skin perfectly intact. Put it into a big bowl (the back faces the bowl and the chest faces up). Open the chest skin to both sides; put the sweet rice (1 lb) with the cold water together and soak 1/2 hour. Chop ham, soaked mushrooms, soaked shrimp. Pour 4 tablespoons corn oil into a heated fry pan, pour the chopped ham, mushrooms and shrimp into the fry pan, fry 10 minutes, also add the sweet rice, frying frequently. At last put the soy sauce into the sweet rice and the ham, mushrooms and shrimp, mix together until it is well done. Then set all of these into the duck skin on a big bowl. Close the duck skin. Set it into the 100° degree oven for one hour, until the oily liquid comes out. Take it out of the oven. Pour out all of the oily liquid. Keep the duck and stuffing dry. Turn the roasted duck with the stuffing with the bowl upside down over a wide plate. Take off the bowl. Then, you can see a roasted duck kneeling on the plate.

by Kitty Lee

CHINESE COOKING

I cook Chinese food. There are many things in the food. There are bean sprouts, salt, corn oil, bean curd, gourmet powder and meat. The price of bean sprouts is 60¢ per pound.

by Ping Nu Wang

STUFFED SQUASH

Ingredients: meat, carrots, watercress, salt, sugar and corn starch.

by Feng Ying Su

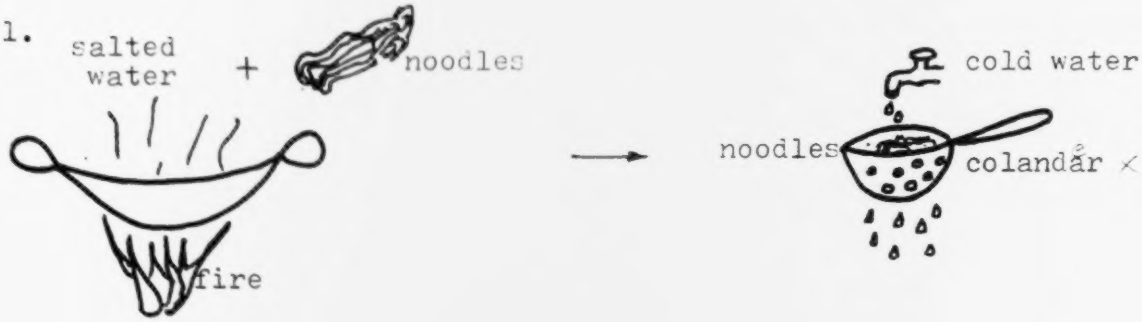
LO MEIN WITH VEGETABLES

egg noodles, bean sprouts, bok choy, mushrooms, garlic, ginger, scallion,

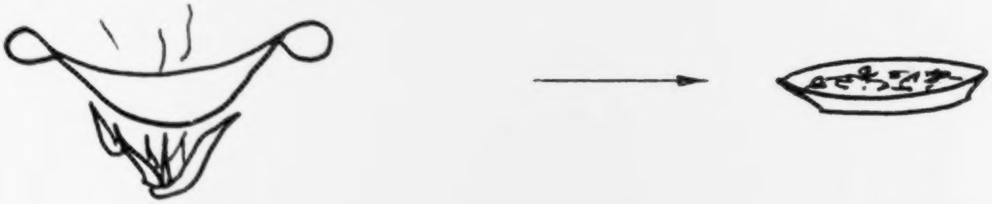
=thin soy + sherry + oyster sauce + sesame oil

* * * * *

1.



2. oil + salt + bok choy



3. oil + noodles + garlic + ginger
+ mushrooms + bean sprouts + bok choy
+ sauce

Shut flame. Add scallions,
season to taste.
Remove, serve.

LO MEIN WITH VEGETABLES

Shek Jung's class

Orange Soda

Orange Soda.
Contains: carbonated water, sugar, citric acid. sodium citrate.
Oranges 4 for $1.00

Shu-Wei Zeng

Fried Chicken

oil

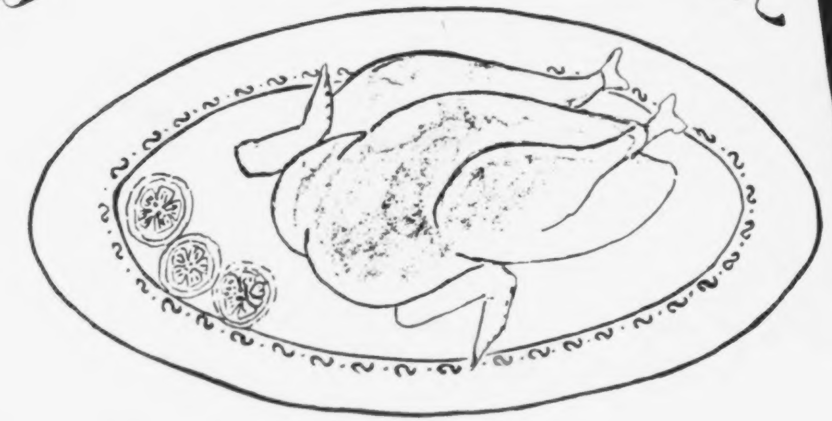
garlic

ginger

sugar

lemon

salt



soy sauce

chicken

cooking wine

-student from Shuli Wu's class
for Adult Education Week

Fried Noddle

Ingredients

Milk	1 cup
egg	3 - 4
Sugar	1/2 cup
flour	1 cup

option. if mixture is too thick, add a dash of water

1. Mix all 4 ingredient in mixer
2. Place the utensil (mold) in the wok until burning hot.
3. Remove from the wok and place the utensil into the flour mixture (the mixture should stick on to all side of the mold shape utensil)
4. Quickly place the utensil back into the wok. The mixture will separate from the utensil while it is still being fried, continuing with the process

Fried till brown and remove from wok.

Ready to serve

花捲

做法

奶	一杯
雞旦	3-4只
糖	半杯
面粉	一杯

注意：如果攪勻好的面粉太黏住，可以加少許水。

1. 首先把奶、雞旦、糖、面粉打勻
2. 將器件放在鍋裏至滾熱，
3. 將器件從鍋裏拿出然後把器件放入攪好的面粉裏（面粉是應該黏住在器件的旁邊。
4. 立即把器件放回鍋中的熱油 花捲自然會離開這个器件. 炸至金黃色起鍋，就可食用.

-from Betty Tsui's class
for Adult Education Week

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Chinese fried dumpling (Salted).

Ingredients

Sweet rice flour	1 Lb.
All purpose flour	1½ cup.
Sugar	5 ounces
cristol oil shortening	5 ounces
water	20 ounces

1.	chopped meat	1 Lb.
2.	Salted cabbage	a few
3.	water chestnut	½ Lb.
4.	green onion	a few
5.	oyster sauce	"
6.	sugar	a few
7.	preserved meat	5 ounces
8.	dried shrimp	4 ounces.

① Boiling water. pour the cristol oil shortening in the boiling water and boil it again for 1 mn then till well. Pour all the flour into the mixture then till well to make a (dough)

②. Add oil in the wok. Put dried shrimp and meat in it to fry.
Add the ingredients 1 to 6 in the wok also with the dried shrimp and meat already cooked. Then fry for 3 or 5 mn. to make (Filling).

Use a cup as a mold to cut out circles from the dough. Put filling inside the circle and fold over and then pinch the dough closed. Deep fried till brown. Ready to serve.

咸水角

做法

糯米粉	1 Lb
澄面粉	1½杯
白糖	5 安士
猪油	.5 安士
水	廿 安士

碎肉	1 磅
臘肉	5 安士
冲菜	少許
馬碲	半磅
葱	少許
加少許白糖	
蠔油	
虾米	4 安士

① 先煮滚水倒下猪油煮一会攪匀倒入粉中攪匀来做咸水角的皮.

② 首先把油和虾米、臘肉放在鍋裏炒.然後再放下碎肉、冲菜、馬碲、葱、白糖、蠔油去炒匀来做咸水角的餡.用个杯放在①面上吸成圓形然後放那些餡在裏面包成一个角形.然後再把那些已做好的咸水角放在鍋裏去油煎直至金黄色就可食用了.

from Betty Tsui's class
for Adult Education Week

Rice Cake

Ingredients

1 Lb of brown sugar
2½ bowls of water
1 Lb of Sweet rice flour.
2 ounces of peanut oil
3 ounces of roasted peanut
6 pieces of date

Add 1 Lb of brown sugar to 2½ bowls of water then boil. Then let it cool. Add 1 Lb of sweet rice flour to the cooled water and sugar mixture. Then add 2 ounces of peanut oil, add 3 ounces of roasted peanut. Pour this mixture into the pan and steam for 50 mn. Take 6 dates cut in half and place on top of the steam rice cake put the whole cake back into the steamer and steam for 10 more mn. Ready to serve.

年糕

做法

1磅黃糖
兩碗半生水
1磅糯米粉
2安士花生油
3安士炒熟花生
6立紅棗分半

先將1磅黃糖用兩碗半生水一齊煮滾，放凍，把一磅糯米粉和放凍的糖水攪和。然後放2安士花生油，再放炒熟的花生3安士，放入盘中蒸50分鐘，最後將6立紅棗分開兩边放在蒸熟的年糕面上。打開鍋蓋再蒸10分鐘就可以食用了。

from Betty Tsui's class
for Adult Education Week

Jelly fish (Cold appetizer)

Ingredients

1 Jelly fish	1 Lb
2 Thin sliced turnip	1/2 Lb
3 1 carrot cut in thin slices	
4 Chopped green onion	a few
5 heated oil	1 spoon
6 Soy sauce	1 spoon
7 Sesame oil	1 teaspoon
8 Salt	1 teaspoon

1. Soak the jelly fish for 2 or 3 days
2. Cut it to thin slice
3. Add a little salt to turnip and carrot and mix.
4. Add ingredients 5 to 8 into jelly fish.
5. Then add turnip and carrot.
6. Refrigerate in 1 or 2 hours, ready to serve.

海蜇皮

做法

海蜇皮	1磅
羅白絲	半磅
紅羅白	一个（切絲）
葱花	些少
熟油	一湯匙
生抽	一湯匙
蔴油	一茶匙
鹽	一茶匙

1. 浸海蜇皮2至3日.
2. 然後切絲.
3. 放些少鹽落在紅、白罗白絲裏.
   然後攪混.
4. 加熟油、生油、蔴油和鹽落在海蜇皮絲裏.
5. 然後再放紅、白罗白絲.
6. 放在冰箱裏 1至2小時 可以食用.

from Betty Tsui's class
for Adult Education Week

RECIPE 1

student from Shuli Wu's class
for Adult Education Week

Coming to the United States

Many people come from the other countries to the United States every year. There are many reasons to come to the United States. Perhaps the two main reasons are: for economic reasons and for freedom.

One of the best countries in the world for economic stability is the United States. People from different countries try to immigrate every day to the United States because this country offers a better level of life than in their country. In the United States people can find a job, and besides, can eat together every day with their families without worrying about another day. For example, two months ago one family, wife, husband , and two children, came from Peru without clothes and money to live. The church and the neighbors helped them with clothes for the children and their meals and so forth. Today this family has an apartment, the husband and wife are working, and the children attend school.

Another reason that the people immigrate to the United States is because they are looking for freedom. Perhaps this reason is more important than the other because the man and woman need to express their feelings and opinions in different ways. For example, the first immigrants that arrived in the United States came from a country where they didn't have religious freedom. Then, later generations who lived in the United States tried to make the Constitution to be sure that in the future this did't happen the same as in his or her country. Now, because of this Constitution. the rest of the immigrants that every day come to the United States can live secure.

In conclusion, the United States is one of the best countries because it can give opportunity to the immigrant who looks for a better economic life and more freedom every day. These are the reasons that many people from other countries migrate to the United States.

by I. M.

I am an immigrant. This country was built for the immigrant people. Today many people discriminate at the new ones.

This nation is curious and contradictory. Common persons work and consume, consume and work, so their life is empty and alienated. They don't worry about the national and international problems. It touches upon each human being to give solutions to act.

The expansion of the Soviet Union, the possibility of third world war, unbalanced ecology, economic problems of Latin America are very important topics for us immigrants, citizens, and non-citizens, residents and illegal people.

Education and youth crisis, family problems, the projection of individual self retaliation, the national dreams are vital topic of general interest. To know the technology and science, to know the democracy and its history, to know the education and culture, to know the people and their aspirations like me. To know, speak, study all the U.S. society.

It is very important to learn English. Learning is difficult, but it is our obligation to continue until we obtain it.

You the union made ILGWU Local 89-22-1 this realization it is very important work to promote of the teaching of the English language. Thanks a lot to the union.

by Fernando Palamanca

OUR NEW COUNTRY

For many immigrants our new country is America, New York City. The place I came to in our new country is N.Y.C. The Big Apple has freedom. But many people sleep, drink, take drugs, and act crazy or violent on the streets. I don't like the dirty subway. These people don't have a family, or the government to take care of them. They have no education, no money, no jobs, no homes.

I like American education and opportunity. I like to learn English after work. I go to school two times a week. The English language is the most important thing for me and many other immigrants. English is very difficult for me.

by Gui-Lam Huang

Hi. My name is Lai Ping Chung. I come from Hong Kong, when I was around ten, I'd stayed there for a while and then left for America with my whole family. When I got here I lived in Chinatown. I didn't have much of an education and I couldn't speak English.

Slowly I began to know more about America because my relatives brought me to places. The more I saw the more I wanted to learn English.

When I had children my mom took care of them so I could continue to work. I still work in a factory. Now in the morning I go to work and in the evening I go to school to learn English. I learned a lot. Now I can speak English with my neighbors. I will continue to learn more English.

by Lai Ping Chung

MY TYPICAL DAY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I get up at 5:30 am, I brush my teeth, shave and take a shower quickly, some times there is no hot water in my apartment.

After that I make my breakfast and my lunch. I leave home at a quarter to seven. I take the "C" train to 145th Street and then I transfer to the "A" train.

I work at 318 West 39th Street on the second floor. I work from Monday to Friday in an inventory room. Everyday after 7:30 I start my non-stop work. First I check all the merchandise whether I have it for production or not. Then I pass the merchandise to the floor to be manufactured.

After lunch time I check the merchandise that came by UPS. By this time I already have many problems with the vendors, the supervisors, the person who helps me, and my boss.

That is how I do my job everyday. I always get off from my job very frustrated at 4:00 pm and come to school very tired and sleepy and I go to bed about 11:30 pm.

On Saturday and Sunday, I clean the house, go do the laundry, watch T.V., cook, and brush up on my English lessons. THAT'S MY WONDERFUL LIFE IN THIS COUNTRY.

by Ignacio Nunez

MY EXPERIENCE

When I came from Ecuador I received a big surprise, because when I was in my country I saw movies that were filmed in this country that I would find everything exactly like it was in the movies; but everything was different.

I saw the streets and the buildings were dirty and totally different. When I went to the train station it was totally new for me. After time passed I adapted to the system of life. I could find good opportunities. I give thanks to God and this country for everything I have.

by D. R.

When I found out that I was going to America, my heart was full of hope and cheer. But I wasn't happy the first day when I arrived in New York City.

It gave me a big "surprise". There was a mess and it was really dirty. I couldn't believe it.

by Angel Hui

That morning when I got up I went to the window to take a look outside. How beautiful the world was! The streets, the cars and the trees were all wrapped in white. So quiet and so pure.

That first time I really wanted to run out to take some pictures, but I was so sad because my camera was stolen two months ago. I still haven't bought a new one.

Then I was going to call my sister to come play in the snow after work but when I left my company building, everything had changed. The streets were so dirty and there was no more snow on the trees. Then I had no interest in playing in the snow.

by May Lin

In New York things are very different from my country. For example the people in Costa Rica are polite with everybody. If get lost or you are looking for some place they are going to help you and if it is possible they will take you to that place. If you need a favor you can be sure that you are going to get it, if it is not money. The hospitality is something very particular in my country, and people are very honest, hard working, religious and passive.

The government cares very much about peace with the nearby countries, education, health and the comfort of all the people. When I came here, a Puerto Rican deceived me because I thought that the people were as honest as in my country and I believed all that he said. Finally he stole $20.00 from me, so now I do not trust strangers.

by Johnny Torres

Hello, my name is Florentino Romero. I'm from El Salvador. I came to the United States seven years ago.

Well, like many immigrants I have many things to say about the United States. Before I knew this country I was very interested in it. I read a lot about it. Of course, in the movies everything looks so beautiful but when I came I received a big surprise, it wasn't easy because I couldn't understand English. The way people live in this country is so different from our country. However my dream always was to be here.

I've been working hard for a living until now. I'm very happy because I can help my family. My dream came true. I am very grateful. I can say this is my country because I love it like it were mine. My deep respect to the United States, I am a good citizen . I respect the laws and I will teach it to my generation too.

by Florentino Romero

AMERICAN DREAM

Before I came to the United States, I always dreamed that America is a nice and beautiful country. The constitution protects everybody. The people have the freedom. The president and congressmen were elected by the people. The people gave the government many powers. The American citizens are very proud and honor everything this is new to me and I thought that I will get it.

But my dream was broken, after I stepped in New York City. I live in a small apartment in a wooden house with my family. It was built more than 75 years ago. The people always criticized New York subways which were dirty and mistake about the time. Some Black people and Spanish make loud noises by playing the radios or knocking anything. Every day brutality incidents occur by the robbers. I can't believe that America is so ugly.

by Pak Hing Jang

DIFFICULTIES AND FUNNY EXPERIENCES IN MAKING YOURSELF UNDERSTOOD

Almost all the people that come from other countries to the U.S.A. have a lot of difficulties making themselves understood. But some of these difficulties can become very funny experiences.

I can tell you this because I have had this experience. When I was here for the first few months, I used to mix up some words, like kitchen and chicken, and I used to think women means men and that man means woman. This mixing up of words got me into some funny problems. Once I went into the men's room thinking that it was the ladies' rest room, and when I went there and was all of those men, I got so red and ran out. Since that day I decided to learn English. Maybe the funniest part are when you mispronounce a word and people take the wrong meaning. For example the lady that used to work in a hotel couldn't speak very clearly. One day she went to the manager. And asked for some sheets. Her boss sent her to the bathroom, then the lady came back and said no, I need sheets and her boss sent her back to the bathroom again. This kept going on until her boss took her by the hand and led her to the bathroom. Well I think you know what her boss thought she was saying.

Well I think it is true what some people say: "English is one hell of a language".

by Y.V.G.

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THIS COUNTRY

Travel just to travel or travel for pleasure is very good. But travel to change ones economic situation and to find all doors closed because of language barriers is very sad because one feels frustated.

For example, I came here to know this country and to visit friends during a month, because I had received in my house, in Colombia a lot of young people of this country as my children and I wanted to see them again. But now I have been waiting five years for that month of vacation to finish because I changed my plans. I don't complain of my luck, but I have not gotten ahead because I don't know English.

I'm happy because all my desires are fulfilled. Also I have enjoyed the funny exprieriences that I passed for not knowing the language. Unforgettable for me is a day that I was with a friend shopping in Manhattan. We needed a rest room for ladies but we didn't know where one was. We were in front of Radio City. We went there to ask if it was possible to enter. My friend asked an employee; "Where is the bedroom, please?" The employee opened his eyes and did not answer. We wondered what was the mistake and my friend said; "Oh! We need the bath room." "Oh!", said the employee and showed us. I will never forget this.

by Lucy Monasterio

My name is Johnny Cortes. I am from Costa Rica. I have been in America for about a year and a half.

Once I went to Miami for a vacation with my friends, and on the third day we were getting ready to go to the beach. They asked me if I was ready, I said I was not ready because I had to go brush my teeths. They laughed at me because I did not know the correct word which is teeth. I am glad I did not say teeths to my dentist.

by Jonny Cortes

EATING IN AMERICA

My name is Luz M. Bonilla, I am from Colombia. I came here in 1981 and I did not speak English.

When I went to the American restaurant I could not read the menu. One day I went to a restaurant where all the food was already cooked. I pointed to the food that I wanted. I went to that restaurant for a long time. I still go there. When I want to go to a different restaurant I always go with my friends.

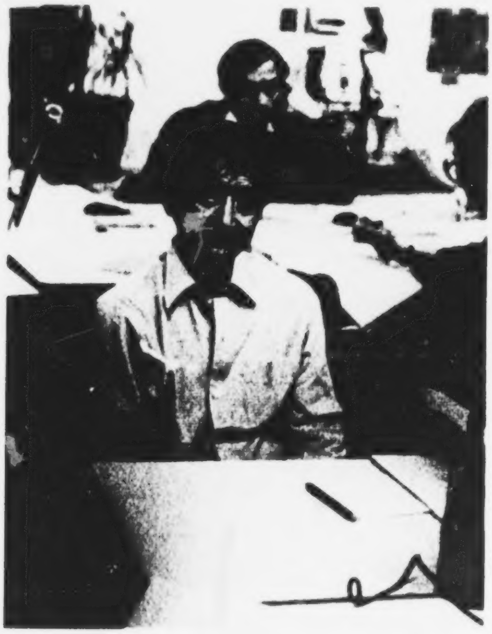
by Luz M. Bonilla

My name is Diana Henao. I am from Colombia and I have been in this country for one year and a half.

One day I went to the post office to buy stamps. I wanted three stamps for thirty nine cents each. The lady who was selling the stamps did not understand. She wanted to sell me stamps for three dollars and ninety cents. I did not buy any stamps that day.

Sometimes when I go to the restaurant the sales person asks me what I want. I say that I do not know because I cannot read the menu sheet. I go to the Spanish restaurant when I learn to speak English very well I will go to American Restaurants.

by Diana Henao



My name is Freddy Tapia and I am from Ecuador. I work in a jewelry store. Next door to the store there is a Greek restaurant with good food.

When I started to work in the jewelry store I always went to the Greek restaurant with my cousin. My cousin ordered food for us. One day my cousin was sick and I went to the restaurant by myself.

A pretty girl brought the menu and she asked me what I wanted. I did not understand and I could not order food. A man was eating at the next table. I pointed to what he was eating and she brought me the breakfast special for lunch. When I told my cousin he laughed a lot. My teacher told me how to order breakfast the way I like.

by Freddy Tapia

SHOPPING IN NEW YORK

My name is Judy Salazar. I am from Guayaquil in Ecuador. I came to America six years ago. When I was here three weeks my brother took all his family to have breakfast at McDonald's. I like the hot chocolate and one week later I went back by myself. Whe the girl asked me what I wanted, I just said "chocolate hot" she did not understand me so I left.

After a few months my sister told me that one of my friends died in my country. I felt sad and I went to the card shop to get a symphathy card for the family.

I could not explain what I wanted to the sales person. I made sign language. I wanted to tell him that my friend was dead. I put my hands together, then I put my finger on my pulse and closed my eyes. I pointed at my eyes to show him. I wanted to cry for my friend. I pointed to the sky to show that my friend had gone to heaven. The guy could not help me. I walked around the store until I found a card. When the guy saw what I wanted he was laughing a lot at all the things I had done.

My teacher laughed until he cried. He said that when he goes into a card shop he will always remember me, and maybe he will play a trick on the sales person.

by Judy Salazar

I came to New York in 1975. I did not understand how to buy things with American money. I could not speak English.

When I went to the vegetable store I paid for one orange with a dollar. Then I went back and paid for another orange with a dollar and got my change. I was afraid to buy many oranges at the same time. I did not know how much it would cost. The guy in the store asked me why I bought one orange over and over.

I got lost in the subway when I was going to work, I cried because I did not want to lose my job.

by Gloria Nieto

THE SUBWAY AND ITS DIFFICULTIES

The subway is always full with people everyday in the mornings and afternoons it's always stuffy in the train. The trains have many track problems and get stuck in the tunnel and it is dangerous for many people.

The train is late all the time it is very hard, sometimes it takes one and a half hours to complete my ride and sometimes I take three or four trains. It is very difficult for me and many other people. The service in the train is not good.

by Emilia Toledo

IN THE SUBWAY STATION OF NEW YORK

When I take the subway train every day I think why is it so dirty. Everyone doesn't care about it. I'm just sick and tired of the subway train.

I remember when I was in Hong Kong. Hong Kong City is not like New York City. The subway station is clean, the street is clean. If someone throws something in the street, s/he gets a summons. S/he would have to pay one hundred dollars.

A few months ago, I saw a policeman who was driving the car on 40th Street in New York City. He threw a cup out the window of the car. I couldn't understand about that.

by Michelle Wong

My name is Hilda Villavicencio and I am From Ecuador.

I came to America in November, 1968. I landed at Kennedy Airport on a Saturday.

I got a job in the same company where my cousin worked. It was in the South Bronx. Everyday I went to work on the train with my cousin. One day she was sick and I had to go to work by myself. I got to work but when I tried to get home I got lost.

I asked people to help me but I did not understand what they were saying. I was on the trains for a long time, both uptown and downtown. Then I got off at 23rd St. and Lexington Avenue and I had to walk eight blocks to my house. When I got home it was nine o'clock. My family thought I was lost because every day I got home at six o'clock.

by Hilda Villavicencio

RIDING THE TRAINS

I remember the first time I used the trains in New York. I got lost because at the time I did not know the difference between the Uptown and Downtown trains, and I did not know what to do. I asked some people and they gave me an explanation and I learned.

Now things are different after five years, I can go any where on the trains. It was a valuable experience, and experience is the best teacher.

by Pedro Richardson

When I came to New York for the first time in 1956, I took the No. 2 train from Saratoga Avenue station in Brooklyn. I wanted to go to 14th Street and I lost my way for three hours and could not return to my house. I asked a policeman. He gave me a map and showed me how to return to house. I do not get lost anymore.

by Mercedes Sanchez

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jorge Echeverria and my country is Ecuador. I came to New York about four years ago. After one week I had a job. A friend on my job showed me how to use mass transit and what stop to get off.

After two days I went by myself and forgot to check my stop. I went by two or three stops. After about ten minutes I went out to the street and went over to the other side. I had to put in another token. I did not know I could underground.

by Jorge Echeverria

WHY I LIVE IN NEW YORK

Before I moved to New York I had lived in Sacramento for three years. My older children were born there.

Sacramento is the capital of California. It was a quiet, clean and beautiful city. The people were nice and polite in that city.

It was difficult to get a job here. We moved to New York City because it is easier to find a job. My children can study at good schools and to have good medical care.

There are too many crimes in New York City. New York City is dirty and noisy, but it is an exciting place, I don't like this city, I hope I will move back to Sacramento when I retire.

by Sau Man Wang

MY PARAKEET

I have fun with my parakeet. It is beautiful colors, sometimes I let it loose in the house, when I do, it starts flying. It looks so happy, so I feel happy too.

After it finishes flying, I feed it. I give it some water, put a blanket around the cage, and it goes to sleep. Tomorrow is another day of fun with my parakeet.

by Agueda Toribio

PLANT FLOWERS

This is the story about my trip to the Botanical Gardens.

I enjoy all kinds of flowers. I saw my special flower the rose, especially when they open up so nicely. It is beautiful. It is nice sightseeing and I took my camera and took some lovely pictures for my album.

by Agueda Toribio

MY FIRST DAY IN THE U.S.A.

I would like to talk about my first day in this country. I came with my girlfriend. We had a nice trip that started at 12:00 am and ended 9:00 pm the next day.

In the morning we went to see the city. For me it was a beautiful day. I saw the Brooklyn Bridge, the Aquarium and many more places.

After that we visited my girlfriend's family. We enjoyed ourselves. I remember we danced, we drank and it was a beautiful time for my first day in the U.S.A.

by Gloria Bersiett

MY VISIT TO CENTRAL PARK

I was in Central Park last month. The day was very cold and cloudy. There were a lot of people visiting that place. Everybody in the park was cold, but they were keeping themselves warm by doing many activities like running, jogging and biking . My visit to Central Park was only one hour long because I was very cold.

by Lucia Patino

This is me on Roosevelt Island last spring. My friend Carlos took this picture. My friend lives on the Island. I went there to visit him.

by Humberto Santana

CHINATOWN

I came to New York five years ago. I thought English was very important, so I studied English at night. My English is not so good. I want to practice, but I don't have time to practice because I go to work every day.

In New York's Chinatown it's like Hong Kong. In fact Chinatown is too crowded, with too many people and too many stores. At the moment, there is no more room for new immigrants to rent apartments because almost all Chinese people like to live in Chinatown, because Chinatown has many Chinese people so it is easy to communicate.

On the other hand, it's noisy, dirty, overcrowded and expensive to live here. The buildings are very old.

Do you agree with me? What do you think of Chinatown?

by Yue Oi Lui

THIRD CHINATOWN

Do you know third Chinatown in New York City? I can tell you, it's in Brooklyn, at 8th Avenue. There are four Chinese stores and three Chinese restaurants there.

Chinese like to live together. More and more Chinese live there. They buy many Chinese foods very easy now. They feel it is very convenient there.

by Ang Ting Li

A TASTE OF JEWISH FOOD

On Wednesday, April 27, 1988, we and Mrs. Tsui's level IA class tasted Jewish food. Our teacher and Mrs. Tsui bought pickles, cornbeef, pastrami, salami, knishes, and rye bread. We had mustard with the food.

We tried all the food from Katz's Delicatessen. We liked the cornbeef more than pastrami and salami. The cornbeef was tastier. The salami tasted like ham to us. We learned the Jewish people don't eat ham, because it's not kosher. The pickles were crunchy, salty, and sour. We found the pickled tomatoes funny. We didn't like the knishes too much. We would try again any time.

by M. Leung's Level I class

EXPERIENCING JEWISH CUISINE

Pastrami comes in narrow stips. It has a dark edge on one side. It has a salty taste.

Cornbeef comes in narrow strips also. It has a redder color than the pastrami. It also has a salty taste.

Salami is round in shape. It's taste is both salty and "garlicy". It's soft.

They all taste delicious.

The pickles are both sour and salty. They're crunchy. Chinese pickles are more sour and less salty.

It's shape like a dome. It's edge is hard and it's inside is soft. It's color is brown. This is Rye Bread.

The mustard tastes sour and hot , but it is not as hot as the Chinese mustard.

The knishes are square, crispy outside and soft inside. They have a golden color.

This experience was wonderful. We enjoyed the experience. We appreciated tasting another culture's food.

by Class 321B
B. Tsui Level I Class

My name name is Mery Perez. I have been living in New York for five years. I like New York.

The city that never sleeps. The people are on the run by train, bus, taxicab, or on foot. The city give you early.

What I like the most is the summer because I go to the beach, and to the park. Everybody goes to picnics in the park in the summer time.

I have a new life in New York. Here you see people from different culture. There are incredible, beautiful museums and very nice people.

I live in the Bronx, with my husband.

by Mery Perez

THE NEW YORK CITY

I like New York City because it's a beautiful place and here I find very good experiences on my work, my life and everything. My best experience is with my job because, my work is very hard, before I worked in an office.

Now I cook, clean my apartment and all is new for me. In New York City, I know good libraries, zoos, parks, museums, botanical gardens, beaches and nice people from different countries.

I like this country for everything and I think I will bring my family to this city.

by Galo Carpio

MY FLIGHT TO GEORGIA

I left in November 1987, my husband and I flew because it was our son's graduation. I enjoyed myself very much and I was very happy because my son was graduating.

I visited two museums, one of the them was the Army museum in Columbus. We visited the Bemming base and a few other places.

Everything was great because I met different people that have different culture and they were very nice to the visitors. I liked everything and for my husband it was great too. This flight was unforgettable for me and for everything I did and saw.

by Iris Matias

MY VACATION

I took a vacation in July last year in 1987, I had ten days on my trip.

On that vacation I went to Minnesota. It was very nice and I was so happy on that trip because it was the first time my whole family went on vacation together. We had nine people on that trip.

We went to many places and did a lot of things in Minnesota. For example, we went to the zoo and saw many things in the zoo, swam in a pool, went fishing on a boat and caught many fishes. We went to pick raspberries and we went shopping many times because there was no tax on clothing.

I would love to live in Minnesota in the summer because there are many lakes. On hot days the people drive boats on the lakes. I hope I can have a vacation in Minnesota every summer.

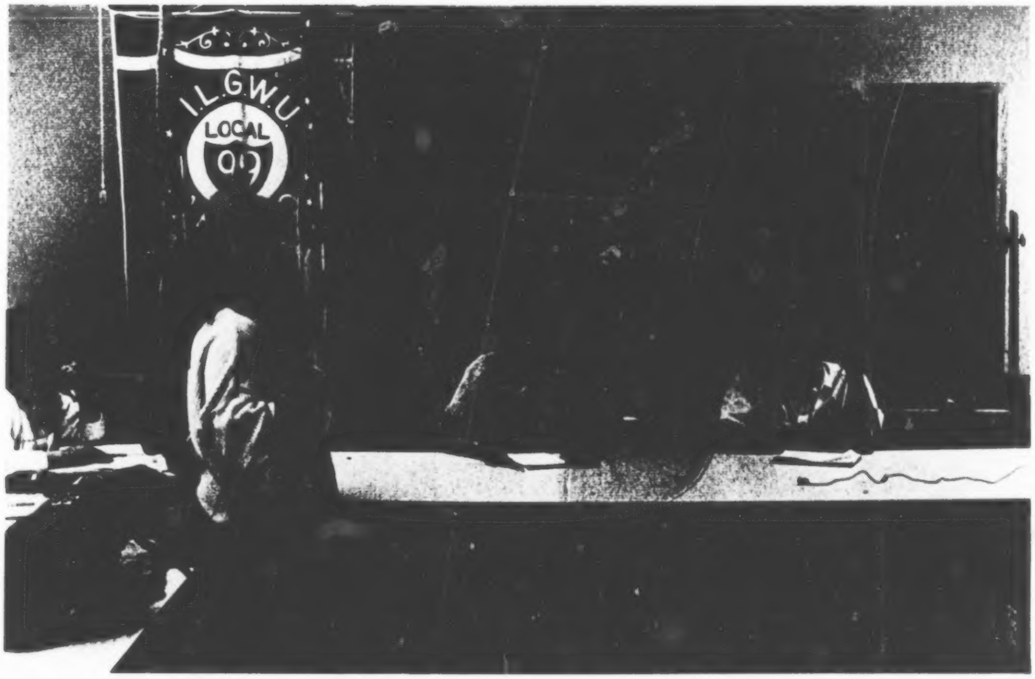
by Karen Ng

CALIFORNIA STATE

The golden state, the land of promise. Few places on earth are as favored or endowed in this empire within a nation. Possesing the geographical features of an entire continent, mountains, deserts, fertile valleys, sandy beaches and deep harbors, California is now the most popular state in the union.

The unique geography of the state provides both an ideal place to live and the nation's most varied receration area. From the heavily populated coast, it is only a few hours drive to places like waste lands in Death Valley, almost three hundred feet below sea level, or to fourteen thousand foot mountain peaks covered with the deepest snowpack in the United States. Los Angeles, megalopolis, cosmopolitan and proud. This land is truly a western paradise.

by Sergias



EASTER HOLIDAY

Easter Sunday the sun was out. It was warm and I knew it was going to be a perfect day, the Easter celebrations had begun.

I bought myself a new outfit, colored two dozens of eggs, and made four Easter baskets. I baked cookies and bought lovely Easter candies. Oh, the baskets looked so lovely I took pride giving them to people I love so much.

In church the resurrection service, about the life of Christ, was so real I felt like a new person and how I wished I could live that cleanly for the rest of my days.

I was on my way to my mother's house and feeling so happy everything around me was beautiful. The greetings from my relatives and the dinner we shared were beyond comparison. We had a beautiful get together and all too soon it had to end.

This lovely Easter day I wanted to share with the whole world.

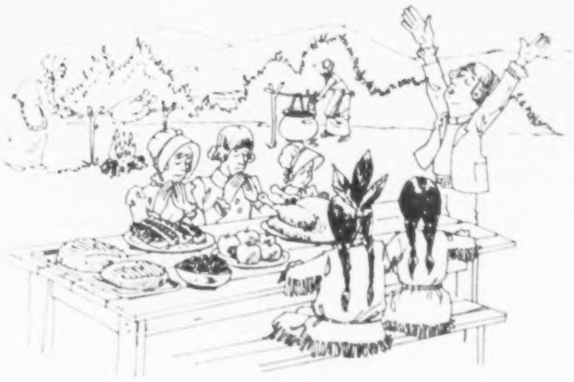
by Celeste Arjune

THANKSGIVING DAY

I would like to say to all of you, I think that Thanksgiving is a very special day for all people in the world. It's a day to give thanks to God. I truly hope that each and everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving day as well as I did.

I ate turkey and a lot of different foods, I enjoyed it. It's great to be in America where the food is so plentiful. My family and I sat at the table and gave thanks to God for blessing us to all be together once more on Thanksgiving day.

by Ignacio Nunez



In this picture there are eight people: two Indians and six Europeans. At the table, four Europeans pray and give thanks to God, because they were hungry and the Indians gave them food.

There are two women wearing long dresses. They are roasting a turkey, and cooking soup in a big pot.

The two Indians are wearing their typical dresses and feathers. They are waiting for the Europeans to finish praying so they can eat. There are turkey, apples, cranberries, corn and cornbread on the table.

On the back there are mountains, trees and the sky.

by A. Arango's class

OUR LIVES

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

I was born in China. I grew up in a small village. I'm thin and cute. I have black long hair. I'm the last child in my family. I began school when I was eight years old. I went to elementary school, but I didn't go to high school. My favorite game is ping-pong.

When I was nineteen years old my family moved to New York. When I arrived in New York I was unhappy. I missed my friends back in China, and I didn't speak one word of English. I felt unhappy.

by Jin Yu Tang

My name is Rosario. I am thirty-three years old. I live in New York. I come from Peru. I live with my husband and sons. Yes I go to school to learn English. I am happy to be in the United States.

by Rosario Correa

I was born in Canton China. Seven years ago my family moved to the United States. First, we were very happy , but I didn't speak one word of English. Life and work were all very difficult.

Now, I'm in 23-25 Union English class. They teach very well. Slowly I'm learning English. I'm interested in learning English.

I worked in a factory during the day and study English at night. I feel tired, but I feel very happy.

by Shun Kiu Ku

My name is Olga Gomez. I am 50 years old. I live in Jersey City. I come from Peru. I live with my son. Yes, I go to school because I want to write, read and speak English. I'm happy because my family has come to the United States.

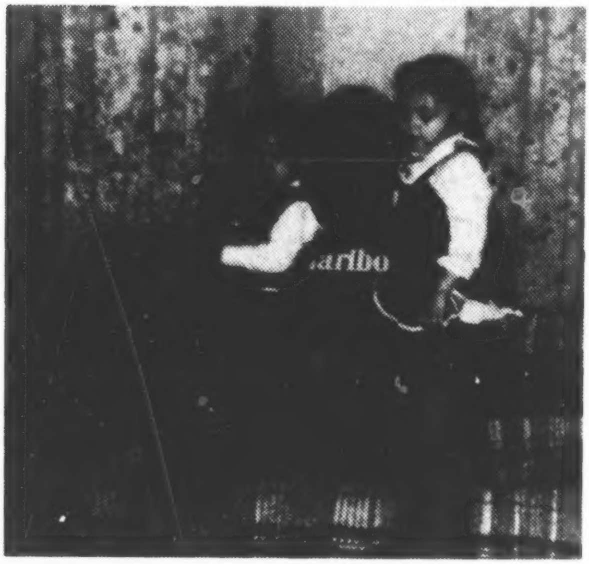
by Olga Gomez

My name is Eduardo. I'm 52 years old. I live in New York. I came from Ecuador. I live with my family. I go to school because I want to learn how to write, read and speak English. I feel very good now.

by Eduardo Feijoo

My name is Margarita. I am 78 years old. I live in New York City. I come from Argentina. I live alone. I go to school because I want to learn English. I am happy to be in the United States. I need an opportunity to go back to my country.

by Margarita Marin



My name is Jose Masoller. I am Puerto Rican. I live in Brooklyn. I was born on October 10, 1961. I am 28 years old. I am married. I have two children. One is a girl. Her name is Karina. She was born on November 2, 1985. The other one is a boy. His name is Jose Jr.. He was born on November 22, 1986. This picture was taken in the living room on November 22nd, on Jose Jr.'s birthday.

by Jose Mosoller

Mei was born in China. I grew up in a small village. I began school when I was eight years old. I went to elementary school. When I went to high school, I went to work. I was sixteen. I came to the United States, to Brooklyn. I go to school at I.S. 131, Wednesday and Friday evening to study English. Last Friday, I went to the supermarket. I have black, straight, long hair.

by Sio Mei Chan

My name is Carmen. I'm 70 years old. I live in New York. I come from Columbia. I live with my family. I go to school because I want to learn English. I like to live in this country but I miss my country and my family.

by Carmen Colmenares

INTERVIEWS

(E: Teacher and H: Student)

E: You were going to tell me about your daughters.

H: And my husband.

E: And your husband. Do you want me to ask questions or would you just like to talk.

H: Ask questions. It's better this way.

E: Helena, where are you from?

H: I'm from Brazil.

E: When did you come to the United States?

H: Nine years ago.

E: And you're married.

H: I'm married.

E: And you have two children.

H: Two children. Two daughters.

E: Your older daughter. What is your older daughter's name?

H: Regina.

E: Regina. Now you told me before that Regina...

H: is mentally retarded.

E: Does she go to school?

H: Yes, a special school in White Plains.

E: What does she do there?

H: She just plays. She doesn't learn anything.

E: What games does she play? She doesn't learn anything from these games?

H: No.

E: Can she speak?

H: A little bit--in English and Portuguese.

E: In English and Portuguese! You told me that you came to the United States for your daughter.

H: For my daughter, yes.

E: Tell me about that.

H: I thought over here she is going to be better.

E: Yes.

H: I thought, she's going to learn something. She's going to talk.

E: But...

H: No. No. The doctors in Brazil, yes, told me over here maybe they can do something. Maybe the doctors can do something. But it wasn't true.

E: Tell me about your younger daughter.

H: My younger daughter is a chemistry. [E: a chemist] a chemist. She has a college degree and for me she is beautiful.

E: You're very proud of her. What is her name?

H: Marcia.

E: Where does she work?

H: She works at Ciba-Geigy.

E: And do both your daughters live with you?

H: Yes.

E: And your husband...

H: My husband works for General Motors.

E: What does he do there?

H: He is an assembly man.

E: And what do you like to do? What do you and your husband like to do?

H: Just watch television. [Laughter] Sometimes I go into the club, the Portuguese Club.

E: Yes, the Portuguese Club. You also told me your husband cooks.

H: Yes. He cooks very well.

E: Better than you?

H: Oh, yes. Yes.

E: How often does he cook?

H: Almost everyday.

E: Everyday, and he cooks Portuguese food?

H: Portuguese food. Brazilian food.

E: Now you said you watch TV, but I know you went to see a show on Broadway recently.

H: Yes.

E: Tell me about it.

H: It was a beautiful show. Brazilian show.

E: Yes. What was it called?

H: "Oba! Oba!"

E: And what was it about?

H: Everything about Brazil from slave time to now.

E: The history of Brazil.

H: History, yes. Singing, dancing, telling stories. That's it.

E: Thank you, Helena.

E: Isela, where do you live?

I: I live in Ossining.

E: Are you married?

I: Yes, I'm married.

E: Do you have children?

I: Yes.

E: How many?

I: Three children.

E: Boys? Girls?

I: One boy, three girls.

E: How old are your children?

I: My son is 9. My daughters 13 and 12.

E: Where does your husband work?

I: Hilton.

E: At the Hilton hotel?

I: Yes.

E: I know that before he sold fruit . . .

I: and vegetables, yes.

E: He had a business?

I: Yes, a business.

E: But he stopped.

I: Yes, he stopped.

E: Why did he stop?

I: Not too much money.

E: He didn't make enough money?

I: Right, he didn't make enough money.

E: So, he went back to work at the Hilton [where he had worked before]; and what do you do here? What kind of work do you do in the factory?

I: Seven years. Oh, no. Sewing machine operator. Overlock.

E: Oh, I forgot to ask. Where are you from?

I: From Domincan Republic.

E: From Santo Domingo?

I: Yes, from Santo Domingo.

I was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. And I live now in New York City. I'm married and I have five children, two boys and three girls. My husband is very good. My wish is to bring them here. I went to school in my country and completed 8th grade. Now, I'm studying English and I love it thanks to my wonderful teacher.

by Mª del C. Pena

I was born in China. I grew up in a large village. I look like my mother and sister. My first words were mother and father. I began to walk when I was eleven months old. I had straight hair. I was tall and thin. I began school when I was eight years old. I went to elementary school and junior high school but I didn't go to high school. I had to go to work when I was twenty years old. I worked in a garment factory. When I was twenty-three years old, my family moved to the United States. We lived in New York City. Now I am studying English at night.

by Hui Zhen Chen

My name is Gina Barreiros. I have a husband and two children. One 6-year-old. Another one 2 years old. My husband works in Laurel Printing in Elmsford and I work at Tarrytown Garment. We are so happy in the United States. We came five years ago, and we are from Spain.

G: And what else?

E: What job do you do here?

G: I am a machine operator--doing rubber.

E: Your sister also works here?

G: Yes. She's a floor lady.

E: Your older son is in school?

G: Yes, he's in Saint Theresa School.

E: Why did you come to the United States?

G: Because I had four sisters and brothers here, and I wanted to come here, you know, to be with them, and [once I got here] I liked it here.

E: You husband has a business as well? He repairs houses?

G: Yes, he does.

E: And he does that with his brother-in-law?

G: Yes.

E: How many hours a week does he work repairing houses?

G: They do it on the weekends. Saturday and Sunday.

E: Every Saturday, every Sunday?

G: Every Saturday and every Sunday.

E: Has he repaired your house?

G: No. [You mean my apartment.] Well, they did it. Yes, they did it. They made a new bathroom and a new kitchen. In the kitchen they put new cabinets and a new floor.

My name is Olga. I'm 50 years old. I live in New York City. I came from Nicaragua. I live with my husband. I am going to school because I want to write, read and speak English. I'm very happy.

by Olga Varela

I was born in China. I began school when I was eight years old. My family was very poor because I have four sisters and four brothers. My father was a worker. My mother didn't work. I'm unhappy. I don't speak English. I go to school Wednesday and Friday. English is very important.

by Mei Ha Chan

Today is Thursday, April 28, 1988. My name is Carmen. I was born in El Salvador. I am twenty seven years old. I came to the United States eight years ago. I am married twice. From my first marriage, I have three children: two boys and one girl. My son's name is Elvis and my daughthers' names are Joanna and Rocio. We are living together. I live in Manhattan. In my apartment are living two aunts and one uncle. I have many nephews and cousins. I am working in New Jersey. My transportation is a van. I am sewing on a machine. My shop's name is Len Lar Corp. On Saturdays I go to computer class. The class begins at 11:30 and finishes at 2:00 and on Sundays I go shopping. My apartment where I live has three rooms, two bedrooms, the kitchen and living room and dining room are together.

by Maria del Carmen Colon

My name is Bella. I'm fifty years old. I live in New York. I come from Puerto Rico. I live with my family. I go to school because I want to learn English. I came to New York because I wanted a new life. I miss my family. I love Puerto Rico.

by Bella Martinez

I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Mery Nerez. My native country is the Dominican Republic. I have been in the United States for 5 years. I live with my husband and my father. We live in an apartment in the Bronx. The apartment is small and crowded. I am happy. I work in the restaurant between 19th and 20th Street on 8th Avenue.

by Mery Nerez

My name is Hilda M. Nunez. I live in Brooklyn. I was born on the 21st of August. I am twenty-one years old today. I am wearing a blue blouse, a white belt, a white mini-skirt and white earrings. My hair is brown and my eyes are also dark brown. In back of me is a beige and brick color curtain.

by Hilda M. Nunez

My name is Qun Cai Choy. I was born in China. I grew up in a village. I'm tall and pretty. I have straight hair. I began school when I was eight years old. I like school. My favorite subjects were mathematics and sports. I went to elementary school but I didn't go to high school.

by Qun Cai Choy

Hello, my name is Luis Flores and I live in Brooklyn. I live with cousin and we are working together, but he speaks three languages; they are: English, Spanish and French and I speak only Spanish. Then he says, "I love New York," and I say, "I love Ecuador." Then he says, "I love Ecuador also." But I hope to learn English this year in Carlos' class.

by Luis Flores

My name is Sara. I'm 90 years old. I live in New York. I come from Ecuador. I live with my cousin. I go to school because I want to learn to speak, read and write English. I'm happy here but I miss my family and my country.

by Sara Estrada

I came to New York in 1988. I live in Brooklyn. I am a worker. I work in a garment factory. I like my job because I can earn money. I work ten hours a day. I want to earn money to go on vacation. I like New York because I have freedom.

by Shitang Liu

Since I started working, I have loved going shopping. Usually my husband gets angry because I go and spend money. I enjoy buying gifts and hiding them in my closet so my husband won't notice I went shopping. I always buy something in case I need it for a birthday, a shower, or a wedding. I'm a little too crazy about going to the store. I look around and do window shopping even if I don't have moneny.

I think I was born shopping. One day my sister gave me a beautiful Teddy Bear with a little shopping bag. There was a little note saying that I was born shopping. To me, it was funny but I realized it was true. When I was single, I used to do the same thing and my mother used to complain about it. Now I have my husband to yell at me if I spend too much money. Sometimes, I go to the mall and stay the whole day shopping. I wish I had a lot of money to buy everything I want.

by Nurys Medina

I was born and grew up in a small village in China. I began elementary school when I was seven years old. I finished high school then I went to work when I was eighteen years old. I came to the United States two years ago. First I lived in Bayside then I moved to Brooklyn. I go to school I.S. 131 every Wednesday and Friday to study English. I joined Local 23-25 in 1987. I have curly hair.

by Sio U Chan

My name is Emilio Orellano. I came from El Salvador. I arrived in January 1980. In my country, I was a bank worker. I was an accountant for thirty years. In America, I do not work in an office because I can not speak English very well. I work in a restaurant making deliveries. I work from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In the morning, I prepare fruit salads. I peel potatoes and I pack pickles in plastic bags to go with the take out sandwiches.

by Emilio Orellano

My name is Eva. I have a small family -- my husband, Felix A. my daughter, Mabel, and son Felix O. I come from Cuba. My husband works in GM in Tarrytown. He is a nice person. Mabel and Felix study in Washington Irving Junior High School. I work at Tarrytown Garment. We go to First Presbyterian Church in Ossining every Sunday. My husband is a deacon. I am President of the Hispanic Women's Association. I am happy about my family.

by E.Y.

My name is Maria. I am 52 years old. I live in New York. I came from Columbia. I live with my sister. I go to school to learn English. I came to this country because I found a good opportunity.

by Maria Soacha

My country is Guatemala and I like it because it is beautiful. I am now in New York City because my family lives here in the Bronx in an apartment.

by Celestina Heredia

I have six children, 3 sons and 3 daughters. I also have six grandchildren. They're very fun. I love them alot. We don't live together but they visit me very often. I'm very happy. Everyday, I walk to the World Trade Center. I like the Path train to go to work. At night, I like to read the newspaper and to watch TV. On the weekend, I like to visit my children and sometimes I like to play mahjong.

by Kwan Uing Tae

My name is Rosa. I'm 40 years old. I live in New York City. I came from Puerto Rico. I live with my son. I go to school because I want to learn to speak English. When I was 15, I left Puerto Rico and came to the United States. I miss my country because I love Puerto Rico.

by Rosa Vazquez

My name is Carmen Rivera. I'm 61 years old. I live in New York. I come from Puerto Rico. I live alone. I go to school becuase I want to learn to speak English. I came to New York in 1952. I miss my country very much.

by Carmen Rivera

ROSE'S STORY

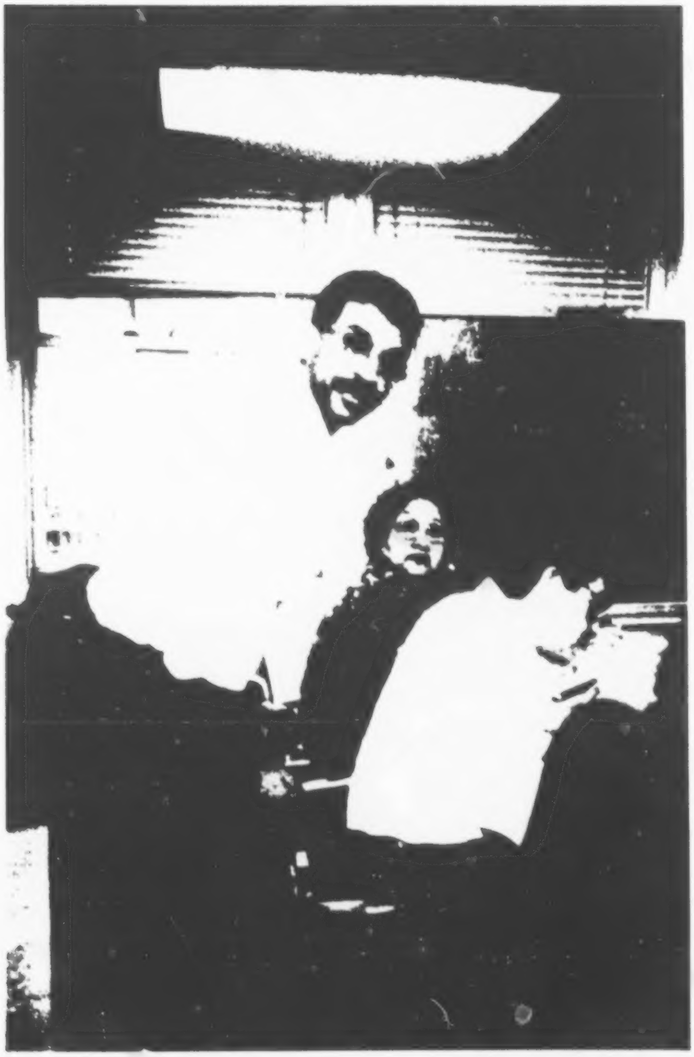
Rose Christin is a lovely lady who I met at evening English Class. She lives in New York City.

Since the ESL Program began, she has attended class twice a week in the evenings, because there she could improve her reading, writing and pronunciation of English.

Rose likes to write articles for the school magazine. She likes to visit art museums, nice restaurants and beautiful parks, with the teacher and her classmates. Finally everything related to education she loves!

Good luck Rose!

by Haroldo Rua



PARENTS

My mother was born in Colombia. I don't remember when she was born. My father was born in Colombia. I don't remember when he was born. She went to school in Bogata, Colombia. He went to school in the same city. She went to school until eighth grade. My father went to college. My mother had three brothers. My father had 3 brothers and 2 sisters. They didn't live with their parents.

by Carmen C.

My mother was born in Nicaragua. I don't remember when she was born. My father was born in Nicaragua. He was born in 1891. He went to school in the capital. He went to school until primary grades. My mother and my father died. They didn't live with their parents.

by Olga

My mother was born in Bahia, Ecuador. I don't know when she was born. My father was born in Ecuador. I don't remember when he was born. My mother went to school in Ecuador. My father went to school in a small city in my country. My mother went to school until the sixth grade. My father went to college in my country. My mother had two brothers and two sisters. My father had one brother and one sister. They lived with their parents.

by Sara

MY PARENTS

My mother was born in Puerto Rico. I don't know when she was born. My father was born in Puerto Rico. I don't when he was born. She didn't go to school. She has three sisters and five brothers. He had one sister. They didn't live with their parents.

by Rosa Vazquez

I remember when I was a little girl. My mother was very sweet always. When I was sick, my mother called the doctor and she called. Then she bought me anything I wanted like clothes and toys. I felt very happy and my father and brother and sister were very friendly with me so I could do anything.

by Gladys Cardenas

My mother was born in Quito, Ecuador. I don't know when my mother was born. My father was born in Ambato, Ecuador. My father was born on 6/26/1902. She went to school in the capital. He went to school in the city. They went to school through primary grades. My mother had brothers and sisters. My father has two brothers and three sisters. They didn't live with their parents.

by Celia Malave

My mother was a very kind person. She never got angry and she was very patient. I remember her. She was a very sweet lady. She liked to read very much every night. And I like to, too. After dinner, my parents, my brother and I sat down in the living room reading any book or magazine. My mother liked stories about kings and actors and about other countries. She told me when she was a student in the Religious College that the Nuns told her to read everyday at dinner time and she loved to read in a loud voice. Sometimes I told her, "Please, read to yourself."

by Fabiola Soto

How beautiful is love and to be loved. It's the most wonderful word in the world. Isn't it?

I'm sorry because I said, "Why did I have to leave all the things that I love, to look for things in another country that never will belong to me?" It isn't because I can't have those things I'm talking about. It's because in Colombia, I have the most wonderful person that anyone can have. I'm sure that everybody knows what I am talking about because everyone has had or has a mother and we know that the most important thing in the life is MOTHER'S LOVE. I give thanks to God because He gave me a wonderful mama and I can say loud and very,.....very, very proud.......,"Mama, I love you very much.

Your son,

Francisco Javier

My mother was born in Puerto Rico. I don't remember when she was born. My father was born in Puerto Rico. I don't remember when he was born. She didn't go to school. He went to school in a small village. He went to school until ninth grade. They didn't have brothers and sisters. They lived with their parents.

by Carmen Rivera

My mother was a good seamstress. She never took sewing classes but she made beautiful and elegant dresses for women or pants and shirts for men. Sometimes I asked her, "Who taught you to sew?" But she always answered, "Nobody. One day I saw a lady make a dress. I liked that, bought a sewing machine, some pieces of fabric and made my first dress. It was not perfect but I promised myself perfection."

She was very young when she had her first baby, fourteen years old. And the baby died. She had four more children, one boy and three girls. She was pretty, with a small body, white and smooth skin, dark red hair, but she didn't know happiness. My father never helped her with the children. He was a handsome man and never took care of us.

She died very young, about thirty-eight years old. I took care of my two younger sisters. I was about fifteen.

by Fidelina Mejia

My mother was born in Puerto Rico in 1902 in the small village of Ciales, Puerto Rico. My father was born in Ciales, Puerto Rico in 1892. She didn't go to school. He went to school in his country. He went to school until the 6th grade. They had 14 brothers and 9 sisters. My mother died on 8/27/1979. My father died on 1/31/1980. They lived with their parents.

by Bella Martinez

FAMILY

This is my favorite child
He is three years old.
He was born in New York City

It is July 4th. We go to Coney Island Amusement Park. My son is very happy. He is on a motorcycle. We often go out on weekends and holidays.

I go to work during the week. My husband also go to work during the week. And my son goes to school during the week. We are very busy. This is our only time together as a family.

by Feng Ying Su Huan

Look at the photograph! They are my friend's children, Maria on the right is a very outgoing girl. But John is very shy. They stand in front of the building, flowers and a statue. They are in Florida during the weekend. They and their parents go to the park to play and take a picture. My friends children have a wonderful time.

by Lui, Xue Xian

My name is Luisa. I have been here four years. I am from Honduras. I only have one son. His name is Edkin. My family is still in my country. I have two sisters and two brothers. They are married. My son goes to a good school. I wish to have many friends and to speak English well.

This is me and my sons. Nelson, is on my left. He is an Electronics Engineer at City College. Robert is on my right side. He is in the Marine Corp. This is my house last December. My daughter took this picture.

by Olivia Herrera

This is my mother's house in Honduras. This picture was taken on September 21, 1987. This is me and my mother's parrot. My brother took this picture because the parrot likes to kiss me. I remember when he talks to me I like him and he likes me.

by Christina Vallecillo

This is my granddaughter's birthday in my house. Her father took the picture on April 4, 1988. She is cutting her cake.

by Rosa Galarza

That's me Yanuria Duran. That's my sister Joselin Duran and my aunt Bernarda Fineo in her graduation of secretary school.

by Yanuria Duran

My sister's family and my family, all go together to Lake George. We visit the museum. My sister's two children and my two children stand in front of the museum in the picture. There are flowers and grass in front of the museum. It's sunny. We all had a very pleasant and good time.

by Ngwe Hee Lee

My family lives in New York. I have a sister and two daughters. I work in Manhattan as a sample maker. I left my country to open new horizons for me and my family. Here in the United States is very good for everybody.

MY HAPPY DAY

This is my picture.
I go to China from New York
to get married.
I like the picture. I stand
in front of the closet.
I am very happy.

by Ping Me Wang

MY DAUGHTER

This is my youngest daughter.
Her name is Jit Ling Zeng.
She is fourteen years old.
She came to America with me
three years ago. She is in
Junior High School. She is
in the seventh grade now.

She is in the living room.
She is telephoning her
friend about their homework.
She likes to talk on the
telephone. She asks her
brother to take a picture.
I like the picture very
much.

by Zeng Shuldei

MY FAMILY

There are fifteen people in my family: my father, my mother and thirteen brothers and sisters. We are six brothers and seven sisters. I love my family because we are all very good to each other.

Five of my brothers, two sisters and my mother live in the Dominican Republic. I live in New York with the rest of my family. One of my brothers got married. I think I will go to my country this summer. My father's name is Vilberto and mother's is Smada. My name is Kremilda Polanco.

There are many people in this picture. We are in a boat. They are my mother, my brother, my brother's wife, my sister, her son and my daughter. In the back of the picture are Americans, I don't know them.

During the week we don't have very much time together,because we all work and study. We are very busy, but we spend a lot of time together on the weekend.

On Sunday we go to the Statue of Liberty and we took a picture in front of the Statue of Liberty. Everybody is having a good time.

by Y. Zhou

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THIS IS MY FAMILY

Today is Sunday. My family goes to a park in Queens. It's snowing. It is our first year in New York City. Everybody is very happy to see the snow because there is no snow in Hong Kong. We see the snow the first time.

There are many children in the picture. There are many trees in the park, but there are no leaves on the trees. We have a good time in the park.

by Man Ling Chung

MY FAMILY

I live in New York. My father and two sisters are living here, but my mother, two brothers and another sister are living in the Dominican Republic.

I work five days a week. I stay home Saturdays and Sundays. I write letters to my family and I do my homework, too. I study English because I want a better life for my family.

by Clara Peralta

IN THE PARK

This is a picture of my sons in Hong Kong. The park is very big. There are a lot of stones in the park. There is a big tree next to the big stone.

Michael and Sam are in the park. The two boys are very happy. Sam is front of Michael. They are sitting on the stone near the tree. Sam is very tired. Michael is not tired. I like the two children.

by Zee Oi Nui

There are many children in the park. I know them very well. On the left side is my daughter. The other children are my brother-in-law's sons and daughters. They take off their clothes to play in the park, because it's very hot. They are all very happy.

by Mae Jie Xian &
Mui Fei Chun

MY HOUSE AND MY NEPHEW

The building in the picture is my house. There are three children in front of the house. They are my brother's son and daughter. Their names are Therry Sit, Cindy Sit, and Gabrial Sit. Therry is ten years old. Cindy is eight years old and Gabrial is six years old. The are very lovely. My brother works at the chicken store during the week. He is very busy.

My house is at Bayside. It is on Oceania Street and is not near Chinatown. It is across from the park. It is a very beautiful two family brick house. My neighborhood is very quiet and my neighbors are very friendly. I live here for two years. I like my house and my nephew very much.

by Freda Sit

MY FAMILY

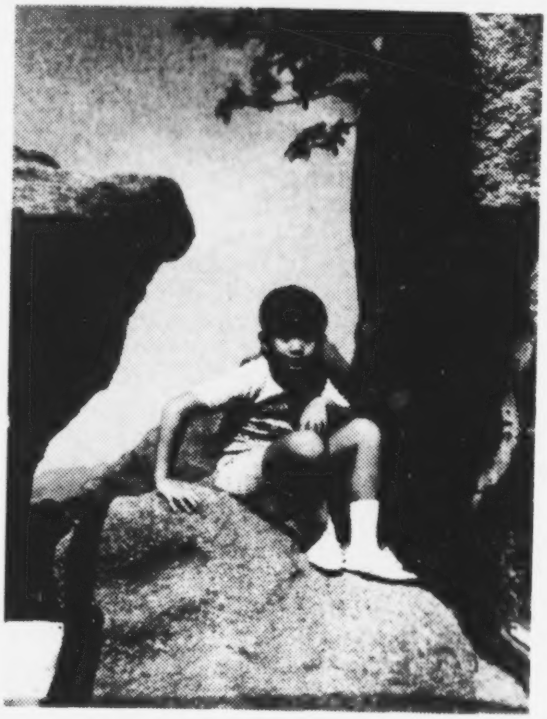
My name is Lilly. I live in Brooklyn. I am married and I have one child. She is ten years old. Every morning I take her to school and then I go to work. She is a lovely girl because when I am too tired or angry she makes me happy.

by Chiang Ying Lin (Lilly)

A HANDSOME BOY

He is my friend's child
He is in the park. It is afternoon. The sun is shining. There are many stones in the park. There is a man in the back of the stones. I like this picture very much!

by Lai Jun Chan



In the picture I can see three people. Two are men We are brothers. The one on the right is the older one; and the one on the left is the younger one and the tall one.

We don't have anymore brothers. Our names are: Alcides Bencosme, Milagros Bencosme and Rafael Bencosme. I am wearing a beautiful dress. Alcides has a black coat and his shirt is white. Milagros has a pink dress and Rafael has a blue coat and a green shirt. I can also see a curtain in brown and gray colors. The two men have glasses.

by Milagros Bencosme

This is my daughter Claribel celebrating her first communion. Her Godparents are on her left. My husband and I are on her the right side.

This is our house in the Bronx. My friend Ysabel took the picture. This was on July 17, 1983.

by Nice Gutierrez

My granddaughter is a girl. She is very good in school and at home. That is the reason why I love her so much. I don't know if I'm exaggerating, but I love her a lot. Her name is Veronica Rosas Tamayo and she is going to be 5 years old in July. She lives in Mexico with her mother.

by Maria Tamayo

Today it has been one year since I came from my country and if I have money I will go to see my family again.

Three days ago, I received a letter from my neighbor Suzy, telling me that she has a new, beautiful daughter and her husband feels very happy because in the beginning of her pregnancy the doctor gave her an examination and the doctor told her that the child would be abnormal. Fortunately they were lucky because the baby was born healthy, and so the examination was wrong.

I feel happy for them.

by Ramona Bahar

It is Sunday morning, I'm eating my breakfast. My mother and father are with me. On Sunday morning I don't go to work. We go to shop together.

We see a big and beautiful clock in a clock shop. The big clock is very noisy.

by Xia Ying Fang

Early morning, I wake up with the chattering sound of the birds from the tall tree. I see the houses of my neighbors amidst of the green trees.

Near my house there is a large pleasant park (playground). My children (son and daughter) are growing up healthly. I am going to live in this atmosphere a long, long live peacefully.

by Pil Soon Hun

I was married on November 27, 1949. I have been married for 35 years. My husband died four years ago. Our marriage was a very happy one. We had three sons.

Now they are handsome adults and very good to me. My oldest son Antonio is an Engineer, and Jose owns his business, a travel agency. Carlos is also an Engineer.

Now I'm grandmother of five and very happy about it.

by Maria Fernandez

REMEMBERING CHILDHOOD

When I was 9 years old, I remember a short thief snuck into my uncle's store. He walked carefully and quietly and started to look everywhere to see what he could steal.

Meanwhile I called the police and told them that a thief came into my uncle's store and was taking everything out. So the police came with a police dog. The dog menacingly jumped on top of the short thief.

The brave dog almost ate up the sneaky thief. After a short time about eight policemen came. Finally I couldn't even see the short thief among all the police.

I am sure the thief regretted that he had penetrated my uncle's store for the rest of his life.

by Ignacio Nunez

When I was a child, about 7 or 8 years old, in the afternoon all the children went to the street to play. I had my friends the same age as me. Across the street, in the corner was a grocery store. The owner's name was Don Juan. He used to put fruits on one side of the table and on the other side there were jars with different kinds of candies. Almost all nights we went to buy 5 cents of candy. The girls stood in front of the counter and told Don Juan, "Don Juan, give us five cents of mint candy." When he turned his back to us, one of the girls put in the small bag 5 or 6 apples. When Don Juan put back the jar, we said, "We don't want mint candies. We wanted cherry flavor." He was a very patient man. He put it back and gave us cherry candies. At that time, the girls finished filling the bag of apples and we ran around the corner and we at the fruits.

When it was my turn, I didn't remember how many apples to take and when we were all around the corner, everyone took their fruit but not me. My friends told me, "Go take your apple."

I said, "No." I was afraid. But they insisted and I went back to the table and took an apple for me.

by Fabiola Soto

When I was a child, my partner of mischief was my cousin Jose. Jose was a good child, but when I thought of something to play, my cousin was afraid because he knew my grandmother would punish us.

One day my grandmother sent my cousin and me to the other side of the river to carry some food to my aunt. But she said, "Do not cross the train bridge because it is a few minutes to three o'clock." This was when the train crossed the bridge.

Well, I told my cousin, "We can run across the bridge before the train comes." Jose said no but I didn't hear him because I was already up on the bridge. He followed me. The bridge is about one block long When we had walked halfway onto the bridge, the train was coming. We were running, crying and looking for a lifesaver [a piece of wood which sticks out further than the tracks where you can stand when the train is coming].

When we were safe, my grandmother was waiting for us. She didn't talk or scream, she only signaled with her finger for us to come down. Our punishment was two days inside the house and no dessert.

by Fidelina Mejia

When I was a child, about ten years old, we used to go to church. The name of the church is "Los Santos de los Ultimos Dias". This is a Mormon church. Every Sunday, we had to go early in the morning because the service started at 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 o'clock. The church was very far from my house and for that reason we had to take a bus. Usually we went together, my sisters and my brother. My brother is the youngest and I am the oldest.

One Sunday after the service, we decided to go to visit one of my friends because her house was near the church. My sisters and my brother didn't want to go because my mother didn't know anything about that, but I convinced them. We decided to go the the friend's home and walked about five blocks. Everything was fine until that moment. When we went to cross the avenue, in that moment something terrible happened. That avenue had two lanes going opposite ways, I took care of my brother and sister and I saw that the avenue was empty, and I told them that was the moment to cross. And they crossed, but I lost some seconds for myself and I didn't see a motorcycle behind me. I felt a big noise and immediately I fell and I rolled around the street.

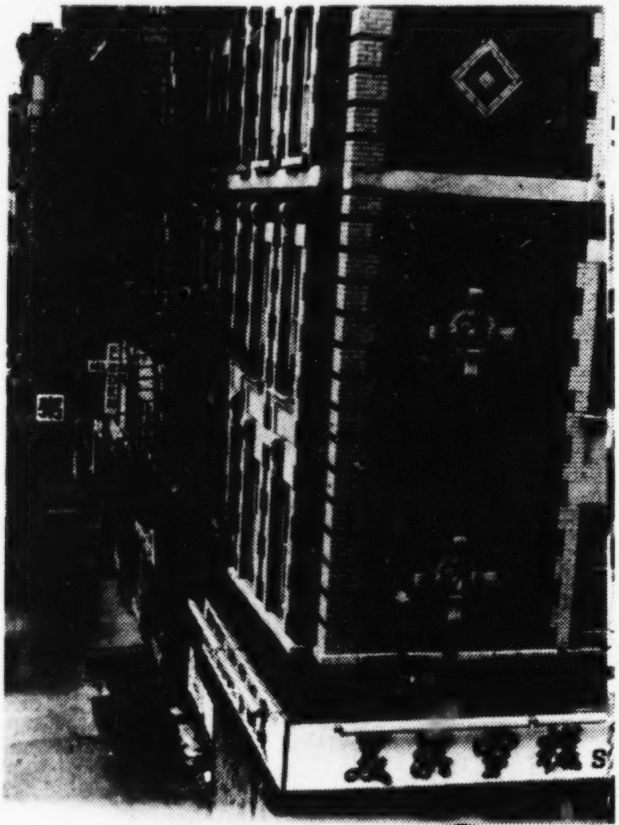
The man on the motor cycle stopped and told me, "Please don't move. I am going to carry you to the hospital." When I heard that immediately I got up and told him, "I am fine, thanks."

After the accident, we went to take the bus to go back home. When I sat down in the bus, my legs began to bleed and I felt scared and I started to cry. We arrived at our house and my mother couldn't believe what happened to me. And immediately she began to cure my legs, but she kept asking me a hundred times what happened to me. We told her another story because if I told her the truth, even now I don't know how she was going to react.

by Debora Lopez

DAILY ACTIVITIES

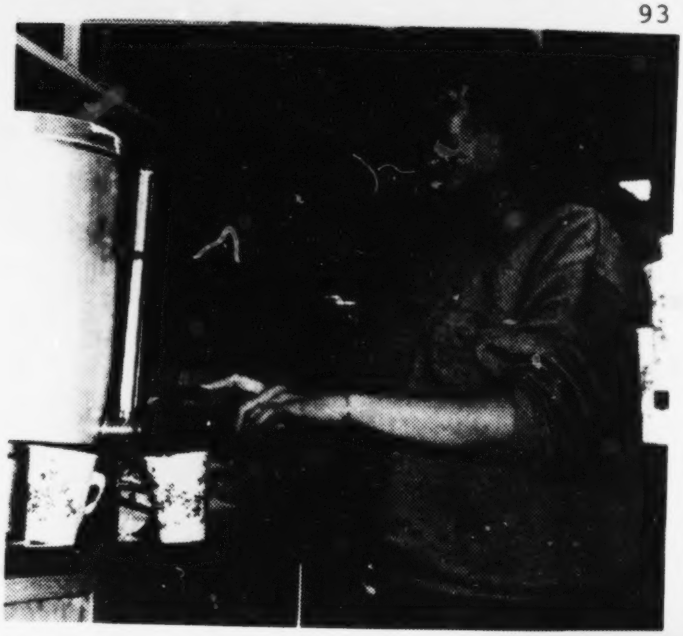
MY DAILY ACTIVITIES



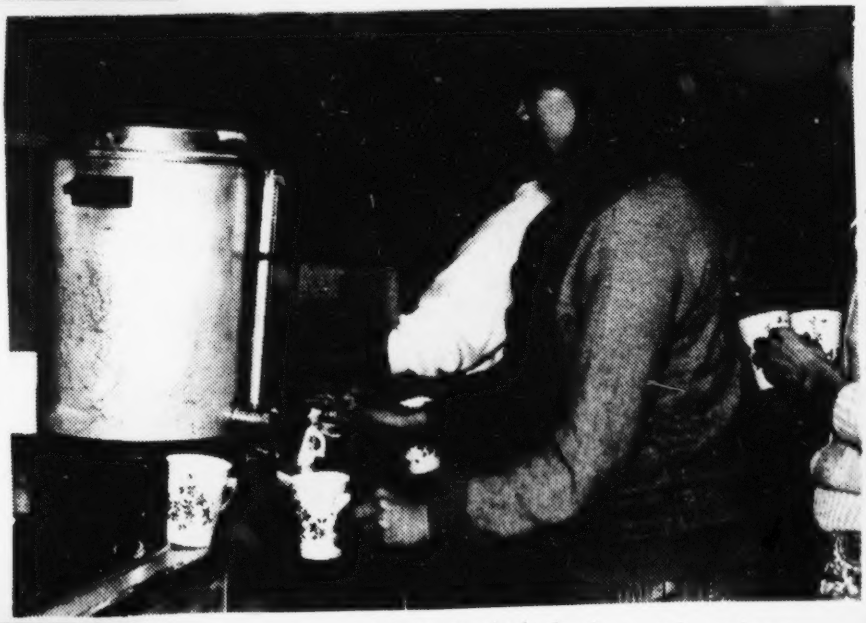
I work in Chinatown.

I study English in Chinatown.

I live in Chinatown.

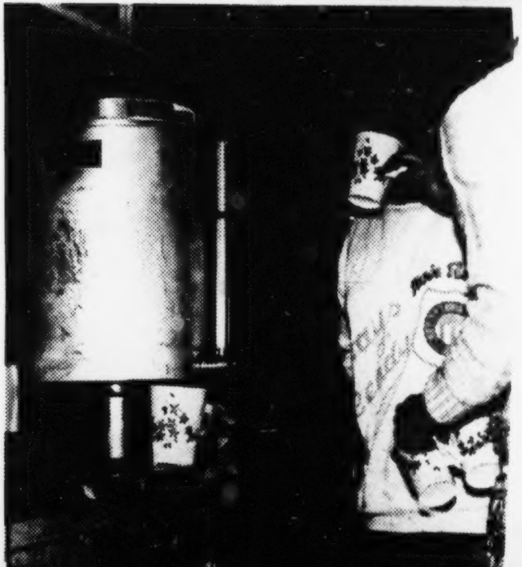


[illegible]



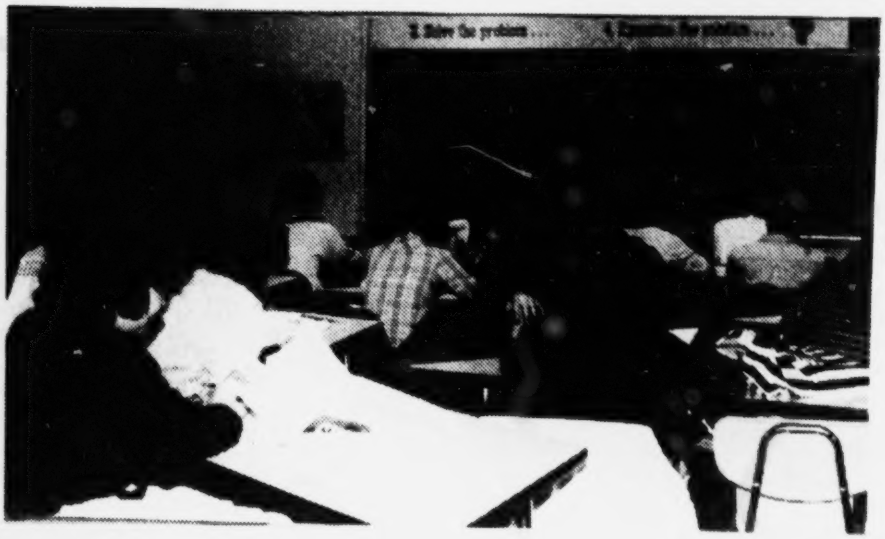
We are all thirsty.

We can drink tea at school.



This is our classroom.

We are in the level one class.



3. Solve the problem ....

It is a big class.

We go out shopping.

What is it ?

It is a supermarket.

by Shek Jung's class

AT THE SUPERMARKET

I go to the supermarket to buy food. I usually buy milk, meat, oil, and vegetables. They also have cookies, cereal, and bread, plus much more. Then I go to the counter and pay for the food.

by M.Y.L.

Last Friday evening at 6 o'clock I left the factory. I went to school to speak English. At 7 o'clock we went to the supermarket. Miss Jung and my teacher (Miss Luk) and students went together to visit the supermarket. We looked for the price, the weight, the price per pound and date. Some students bought some batteries and tissues. Some students lined up to pay the cashier. We left the supermarket and went outside to look and it was raining. We stood inside ten minutes.

by Yuen Ling Chan

I went to the supermarket about 7 o'clock. I bought some fried pork rinds and tissues and potato chips. I looked for the cake, the vegetables and fruits. I lined up to pay the cashier. Then I left the supermarket at half past eight. It was raining. I went home. I had a good time that evening.

by Nu Ock Tan

It is Christmas. It is cold, but the sky is sunny. Alot of companies have sales today. It is twelve o'clock at noon. I go shopping with my two friends. My friend Judy is buying clothes. The other friend Lancy is buying shoes. I am buying some jackets and other things. We are enjoying shopping and we have a joyful day on the holiday.

by Wo Nam To

AT HOME

Jane woke up at 8:00 a.m. Then she turned off the alarm. Next she got out of bed. She went into the bathroom. Jane washed her face. She took off her pajamas. Then she put on her clothes. She finished her coffee and put on her coat. Jane left her apartment. She took the bus to work.

by Yuan Jung Ruan

Dear Teacher:

I have been spending most of my time with my friends. These people are mostly from Taiwan. We have been up very late Saturday and Sunday playing cards and dancing and swimming. During the day, I've been able to do a little sight-seeing but I'm very happy this vacation.

See you Wednesday,

Your student,

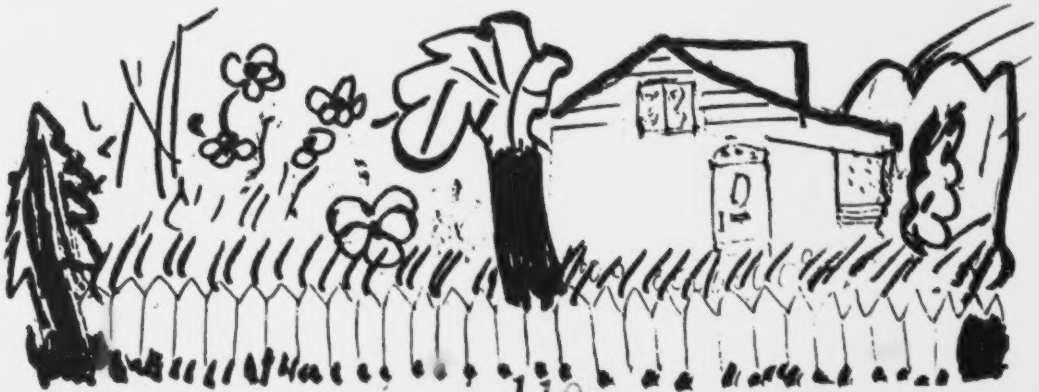
Wei Xiang

This is my house. This is the dining room. It is next to the front yard. The kitchen is next to the garage. My car is parked in the garage. The bedroom and bathroom are on the second floor. I get up at 6 o'clock in the morning and eat my breakfast at seven o'clock. After breakfast, I go to plant flowers in the garden and eat my lunch at noon.

by

I live in a private house. My home has a porch. It has a yard. There is a fence around the yard. There are many trees in the yard. I have a garden. I plant different kinds of flowers, grass, and pumpkins. It is very beautiful. I am very happy.

by Kam Fan Li



WHAT DID YOU DO LAST SUNDAY?

Last Sunday I got up at nine o'clock. After I had breakfast I went shopping and bought food. When I came home, my sister had been waiting for me in my house. I cooked dinner for her. We talked as we had dinner. We had a good time that day.

by Rui Y. Chen

Last Saturday, my English teacher invited me to her home to have dinner at 5:00 p.m. When I went to her apartment, I saw they were decorating the apartment very gracefully and she introduced me to the person who painted the picture and who made the statue. After that, we had to eat. At first, we ate grapefruit, then we ate dinner. We ate and talked until 9:30. Then we left her apartment to take the subway to go home.

That day I felt very happy and learned alot about how American people live.

by Lily

Last night I baked a banana cake. But I didn't do a good job. The cake didn't rise, so it came out like a rock. This morning I took it to my company and showed it to my co-workers. They were laughing and then ate some. They told me, "It tastes good!" I knew they were trying to make me feel better.

by Christina Chin

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS MONTH?

This month I am very busy making a sweet sixteen dress because my niece is going to be 16 years old June 10. She asked me to make it very gently and carefully with very special fabric. I spend a lot of time making it. My niece gives me a hard time because she doesn't like to try on the dress, but I convinced her to do it in order to finish. I hope it comes out nice and she likes it.

by Olinda E. Vera

A: Ring... Hello?

B: Hello! May I speak with Amy please?

A: Speaking. Who's calling please?

B: This is Linda. What happened to your voice?

A: Oh! I caught a cold last week.

B: How do you feel now?

A: I feel much better than last week. You don't know how bad I was last week. I felt as if somebody hit my body, and I got a high fever also. I felt like I was going to die.

B: I feel sorry for you.

A: Oh! I forgot to ask you, how are you and how is everything?

B: Everything is O.K. and I have some good news to tell you.

A: What's the good news?

B: I'm pregnant. About two months pregnant.

A: Congratulations. I'm so happy for you.

B: Yes, I'm so excited.

A: Linda, you have to be careful about everything.

B: I will, don't worry. Amy, it's been nice talking to you.

A: It's been nice talking to you, too. Thank you for your call. Take care and good night.

B: Good night.

by Christina Chin

WORK

I came to New York in 1980. I live in Chinatown. I am a garment worker. I work in a factory. I like my job because I have freedom and live nearby. I work 8 hours a day. I want to earn money to go on vacation. I like New York because my family lives in New York City, too.

by Judy Lee

A CHANGE

"You can't teach an old dog new tricks." This is an old saying which applies to older people who are interested in progressing. I think you should ignore this. I know many people want to study for progressing, but they can't do it because of language barriers or age discrimination.

For some of the working population, the Union plan brings an opportunity that will give a way through, to progress by education. I think the Union has given a big step with this program. I'm hoping the program will get bigger and better everyday.

Concerning myself, I will take advantage of it, to go ahead with my goal, to get a better position for me and my family.

by Josephine Joghtty

I usually get up at 7 a.m. everyday because I start work at 9:00 a.m. I take a shower and get dressed. I never have breakfast. I leave the house at 8:00 a.m. and it takes me about 40 minutes to travel to work.

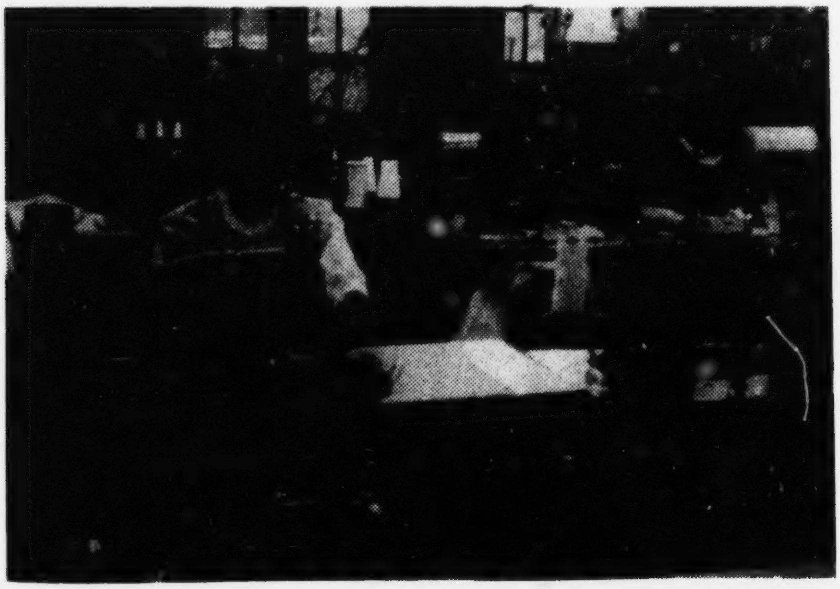
As I said before, I start to work at 9:00 a.m. I make wedding dresses. Sometimes they are easy but usually they are too much work. I have my lunch at 12:30 p.m. I have one hour for lunch. After that I start at 1:30 again and I work to 5:00 p.m.

by Olinda E. Vera

My job is in a french restaurant on 47th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues. I begin my work at seven o'clock in the morning. I open the restaurant everyday. With me working are 7 men; a chef, 2 cooks, 3 dishwashers, a salad man and 8 waitresses. We open at 12 o'clock for lunch. The lunch finishes at three in the afternoon. At five we open for dinner until midnight.

The people working in this job are very good men and we are good friends. It is a nice job. I like my work.

by Jose Creo



This is me in my job. I'm working on the machine sewing a hem. I am happy working becuase I make money to send to my family in Ecuador, and I am working together with my friends. Mike, the foreman, is behind me looking at me. Thanks to my Union, I work only 35 hours a week. They pay me holidays and vacation. I am a member of Local 66-40 I.L.G.W.U.

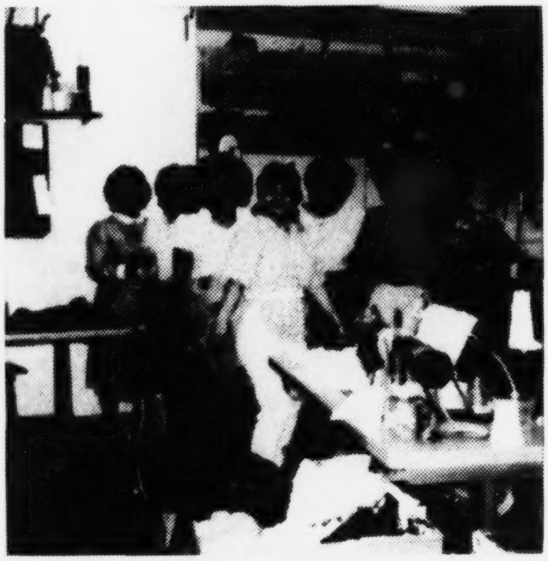
by Blanca Bohorguez

My job is making patterns. I work with two designers. One is the head designer. The head designer sometimes yells at me. She always has a bad temper. The small designer always gives me a hard time. If I want to drink water three times or four times a day, she asks me, "Do you have more work? How many patterns did you make? Let me see." She always forces the Chinese people to do more work. Sometimes we work overtime. We don't get paid.

by Choi Ha Leung

My name is Marina Valdes. I live in White Plains and work in Tarrytown. I take the bus every morning. The factory name is: Tarrytown Garment Company, Inc. It manufactures swimwear. My first job was a rubber machine operator, but it was hard for me! They changed me to overlock machine, and I am happy now in this job. This factory is big, clean and has good facilities. All the girls working in the floor there are very nice. I made new friends. We finished work at 3:30. Right after every Monday and Wednesday they have English class for a group of girls. I am trying to learn.

by Marina Valdes



WORK

This is me and my co-workers in my job. I am the last one on the left. My friends Sara and Rosa also come to English class. The forelady took this picture one month. In front of us is my machine.

by Cali Vara

I like America because it is a free country. I have many job choices but work long hours. I work hard everyday. I hope to have a rich life because I want to buy a good house and sometimes take my family on a vacation.

by Chan Chui Har

I came to New York in 1982. I live in Elmhurst. I am a garment worker. I work in a factory. I like my job because I can earn money. I work nine hours a day. I like New York because it is a very nice place to live.

by Chen Lin-Xue

This picture is my work. This is my friend Anita. My blouse is black and white. In my job there are lots of boxes. I work with gloves. My hair is short. My face is happy. Anita's blouse is white.

by a student in
Ramon Perez's
class

I arrive at my company around nine o'clock every morning. I usually have a cup of tea before I start working. I enjoy drinking tea because I can relax. After that I start a hard day's work.

My job is making patterns. First I do it on pattern paper, Then cut it out in muslin and put it on a dress form to show my boss. If everything looks good, I have to do it again on hard paper, and give all the notches, and write on the cutter must card.

About one o'clock, I have one hour to take lunch. After I come back from lunch I do the same thing again until five o'clock. Then I go home. That is a typical day of my work.

by Sandy Chun

I work in a factory in Chinatown. I am a garmnet worker. Everyday I go to work at 9 o'clock. I like my job because I have freedom.

by Chan Mei Lan

Everyday, I wake up at 7:00 a.m., have my breakfast and then I go to my job. I begin my job at 9:00 a.m. The first thing that I do is help the man that puts the fabric on the table, or I put snaps on the clothes with the snap machine. At 11:00 sharp, I make the shipment to the other companies.

I like my work. The times passes so fast although we only work a few hours a day. I have many friends at work. It's good when it is like this because I enjoy work in the shop. The only things that I don't like are the bathroom (dirty and dusty) and the lousy benefits.

by Miguel Ponce

My job is very important for me because it's a comfortable place. The people are very nice and the boss is very funny. We work very hard and sometimes get very tired, but the boss makes us happy. My job is in a very big place and bright. I feel happy there.

by Maria A. Acevedo

When I was small I liked to go on trips. I earned my money and saved it. Soon my dream came true. I came to New York City with all my money. Now I am working in New York City everyday in Manhattan on 7th Avenue and 30th Street. My work is very good. My work is making delivery everyday and cleaning a restaurant. My work is from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and it is beautiful.

by Joan D. Dominguez

WORKING MOTHERS

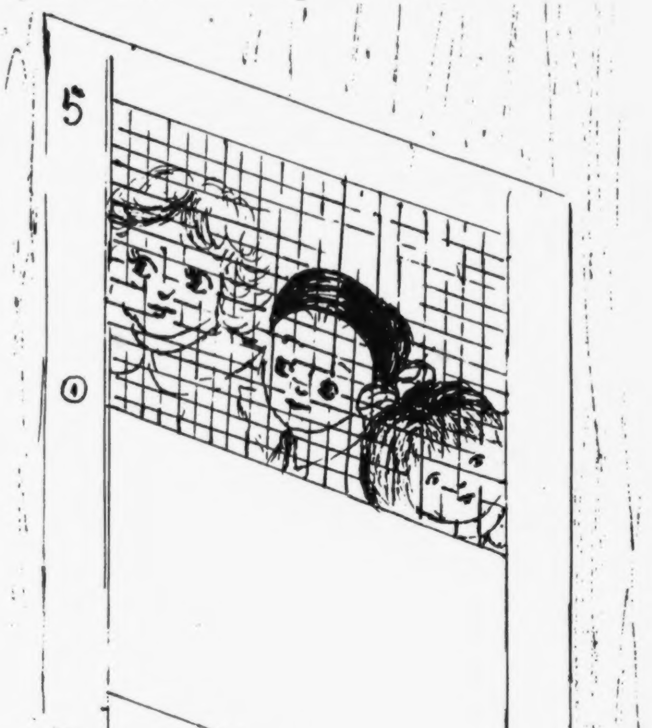
Life is hard especially for working mothers with babies or student children, and more if they are alone.

It is very difficult to make a living, to take care of a house and to care for children. But a mother's love makes her a hero.

I have thought of this kind of mother because when I go to my afternoon job I have to pass in front of a school. Always two girls and a boy are looking at the street by the door's grating. They are looking for their mother. But she doesn't come and they are worried because they are hungry. They have been waiting for her all day.

I remember when my husband died twenty three years ago. My children were 9, 7, and 2 years old. I had to carry my children to college where I worked. Today, they are a Textile Technician, an Architect and a Communication Scientist.

by Lucy Monestario



By Lucy

Our First Jobs in New York

Five days after I arrived in New York, I started to work at G O Leather Fashions. My brother was working there and he introduced me to my employer. It was very hard for me because I never worked in a factory before, but I tried to learn the job. I didn't know what to do, but on the second day I saw how some men worked. Sometimes I asked for some idea and they explained to me very well.

Then I learned the pattern numbers and all the styles that they were using. I learned to organize the garments style by style and it was very easy for me. Now, I have a special job at the company. I cut materials for the garments.

by Marcelo Eugenio

This happened in October, 1970. It was a cold morning. I didn't know the city (Brooklyn) so my sister took me to the same factory where she was working. She spoke to her boss about me looking for a job. Her boss gave me a job. He asked me if I would like to press sweaters. I thought for a few seconds and I said yes, but I didn't know how to press so he showed me. I didn't like the shift. It was from 4 p.m. to 12 a.m. midnight. The rate was $5.00 per hour. I worked for two and one-half months, then I found a new job.

by Alejandro Mendez

When I came to New York, I started working in a big company. I had a friend at the company and I replaced him. At the beginning I had many problems becasue I didn't speak English very well. I had many problems with my boss, because he was hyper; sometimes he gave an order and I didn't understand so he had to tell another man what he wanted me to do. Then this man told me what my boss said. He would always get mad and start yelling. Everyday, I got there very early before everybody did. I did my job like delivery, drying buttons, and I started to learn how to dye buttons because this company dyes buttons for the small factories in the garment center.

by Carlos Cailedo

When I arrived in New York City, my first job was in construction. Why? Because I found a friend and he sent me to see a construction supervisor. When I was talking with the supervisor, the first thing he did was look at my hands and then he asked me, "Have you ever worked before in this type of job?" I answered, "No, but I need work because I arrived two days ago." He looked at me, maybe thinking this man can't work in this strenuous of a job. Finally, he said, "O.K., you will be Ralph's helper."

For 10 days I worked hard in the construction business, a good and hard experience. They were a nice group of people and they helped me. After 11 days, I said goodbye and found a new job at the Bank of New York. They were surprised. They shook my hand and said, "Good Luck".

by Tomas R. Reyes

This is my first job and the only one that I have ever had since I came to the United States four years ago on February 16, 1984. One month later, I started to work in a factory where they make coats and jackets. I did not know how to work because I had never worked before. They taught me all the machines: Singer, Merrow, Union special, etc. So two months later, I learned and now I am a machine operator.

What I do is put sleeves on the jackets, coats. And also I put the snaps. Sometimes I work on the floor when they need me. I am not going to say that my bosses are good or bad. Sometimes they are good and sometimes they are bad. When you need something, if you tell them, they help you. At this time I have not had any experience or problem in my job.

by Jorge Carcamo

My first job in the U.S.A. was in a small place. The owner was a Dominican lady and she told me that first she wanted to see how I work and then decide how much she will pay me. And I had to work Monday through Saturday, eight hours each day. Well, on Saturday, she told me, "I can pay you $125 a week. I had to work eight hours a day, six days a week, but every day I started at a different time and I always finished work at night. That caused me alot of trouble with my husband. She was always looking over my shoulder.

If the job is no good, we have to look for another one and try to do better, but sometimes you can't quit because you need the money.

by Leonor Torres

The Union

"What Our Trade Union Gives Us- I.G.L.W.U. Stands for Justice"

I had a feeling of accomplishment when I decided to attend classes. I figured it would be a rewarding experience. Going to classes at night for my G.E.D. showed my willingness to learn more. That too is successful.

I had a dream of completing my high school education but came to New York and got married. I started making money, and got a new apartment. But new friends even pushed my dream further away. Then, my job closed down. Now, I've decided to take courses for my high school equivalency test.

Going back to school has given me confidence and I can fulfill my goals now.

Life is full of Second Chances! Thanks to my union local 23-25 for making this possible. It has helped me recognize second chances and has given me the courage to act on them. The union was a blessing in addressing the needs of our members and their families. We have a health center, Adult Literacy program and other assistance programs if crises hits our union families. Our union was the first. Our union brings together the generations of our families to demand a better future. I'm proud to be a member of such a great organization which demonstrates justice for all.

May God bless our President Jay Mazur and Vice President Edgar Romeny and all the staff of our union for doing a good job.

-Rosie M. Christian

In 1984, I came from China to The United States. Before that, I spoke, wrote and read Chinese.

When I came to The United States, I couldn't find a good job because I couldn't speak or read English. Three years ago, I had the fortunate chance to join Union Local 23-25's night school to study English. All the teachers teach very well and all of my classmates study hard. They know that studying English is an important thing. Day after day, we know more and more English. We are on the move.

I think that ten years from now, every one of classmates will have a good job. But by that time, I will be retired. Do you believe me? What do you think?

"The Union and the Land of Freedom"

The union has been helping thousands of immigrants by offering all things that are required to live in this country.
When people of different nationalities come to The United States, most of them are looking for a better life and freedom. They will have to change their way of living in many ways. They will first need to learn the English language and look for a job.
The union offers all educational programs ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE. It offers English classes, health care, job skills, legalization of proper documents and much, much more.
The union is a very important part of our lives and we' should be proud to belong to this union because it is always there when you need a helping hand. That's why having a union is so important for all people. So let's support the union in every way possible and remember one thing. We must all pull together and keep the union stronger than ever.

-Igncio Nunez

My name is Jenna Sun. I'm from Hong Kong. I have a wonderful house with a very big garden and a washing machine. On the second floor, I have four bedrooms, one living room, one dining room and a kitchen with enough furniture. I am working in a famous company. It belongs to Local 89-22-1 of the union. They have very good benefits and different kinds of activities like English classes. Everybody can join it.

-Jenna Sun

The union chorus was formed seventeen years ago. Every local is represented in this group. We have sung in different locations, places and states.
We sang in a Broadway theater two times in 1982.
We sing in English and Spanish most of the time.
Every year we travel to the convention of I.G.L.W.U. for a few days to sing at the meetings.
I enjoy being a member of the chorus.

B. Nava's class

My name is Bronie Wai Ching Fang. I came from Hong Kong just six months ago. Now I live in Brooklyn with my husband.

I am working in a garment factory as a sample maker. I am very happy to work there because all of my co-workers treat me very well and they are friendly. As a new immigrant, I think I am very lucky because I have a good job and it is a job I like very much.

I joined the I.L.G.W.U. a few months ago. In my own opinion it is very good for us to join the union. They struggle for a lot of benefits for us such as wage increases, health welfare, jury pay , sick leave etc. The union also organizes many activities for the members so that they can have the chance to relax after working. It offers English classes for its members. These classes are very helpful for the new immigrants, especially for those who do not know English.

I was very pleased to be chosen as one of the bus poster persons for 1983 and for the t.v. commercial. I was so proud that I could do something for our union.

-Bronie Fang

I think we have responsibilities all our life. I remember when I was six years old. I was very sick. My mother took care of me. She gave me medicine. But I didn't like the medicine. Sometimes I kept the tablet in my mouth and then threw it out. Then one day, I learned my father was spending money on the medicine. I said I have a responsibility to take the medicine tablets. I loved my mother and my father. We always loved each other.

I went to school every day. I did my homework. At Christmas time and at the end of the year we had beautiful programs. The teacher gave me some lines to represent something in the comedy. They knew I had a responsibility to do.

When I finished school the doctor told my mother I could not study any more.

When I was thirteen years old, I had other responsibilities. I had to help my mother, go with our housekeeper to the supermarket, take care of the garden and feed the birds.

When I was twenty five years old, my father died. My responsibility was to accompany my mother. She was very sad.

When I was thirty one years old, my sister told me her boss gave her a trip to New York. She was a manager for a television channel. She asked me if I would like to go with her. I said , "Thank you". I asked my mother. She said that this would be good for me and that we would take a trip for two months. We came together to New York. I love this country. I told my sister I would like to work here. She wrote a letter to my mother about me. My mother made a telephone call for us. She said I could stay a few more months because I am a responsible person.

Before my sister went back, I started work as a sewing machine operator. I was happy to have my own money. Sometimes I would cry when I remembered my mother.

A few years ago, my mother sent my sister because she doesn't like me to be alone. We work together. We have responsibilities to ourselves.

Two years ago, my mother came to visit us for three months. One year later she died. I thought I was going to die too.

Now I am working for I.L.G.W.U. I take English classes. I love New York. Thank you to Local 155.

-Rebeea Cuesta

EDUCATION

We learn English because we need it for many reasons. We need it when we go to the doctor's office, the hospital, immigration. We need English because we live in The United States. We need English in our jobs. Our class gives us better preparation.
We learn about everything. We learn about animals, persons, the community, fruits and vegetables. We learn about where we live and we learn how to communicate with one another.
We learn how to introduce people.
We need to continue to study in order to have a better understanding of the English language.
Next year we will be in English class again.

-Felecia Tejeda, Gilma Cedeno, Isabel Cortez
Freddy Rengel, Carlos Mendieta, Antonio Hernandez, Marleni Hernandez, Oscar Sagastume, Felix Crisantos, Eva Crizantos, Elvia Ortiz, Juan Rodriguez, Margarita Perez, Rosa Guailacela, Esperanza Godoy, Ana Florencio, Elizabeth Mendoza, Eugenio Chavez

Our English class has about twenty five adult students. Some are from China. Some are from Hong Kong. We want to study English and learn pronunciation because the American language is very important for us.

-Ching Han Leung

My school has intensive English classes. The classes are on Wednesday and Friday from 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. I not only learn and gain more English but I make a lot of new friends there. If classmates have problems, we can help each other. Our teacher teaches us very well. Sometimes we have entertainment activities. Therefore, I like the intensive English class very much.

- Shao Ling Huang

I learn English in the local 23-25 evening school. The students in the class are from many different factories. I feel happy to have many new friends. My teacher's name is Judy Shien. She works very hard to help us. We all like her because she is a good teacher.

-J. Shien

I am Chinese. I was born in Canton, China. I am 5'6" tall. My skin is yellow. My hair is straight and the color is dark brown. My eyes are brown. I have a round face and a flat nose.

I like to swim. It is my hobby. Every morning I used to go swimming in Hong Kong. I have not gone swimming since I came to New York. I don't know where a pool is. Therefore, I go jogging now.

At the end of September, 1987, I came to New York City from Hong Kong. I had to make an important decision. I decided to enroll in 23-25 Workers Union Evening School. There are many important subjects for us to study and all of them, in one way or another, are useful. The most important subject is to study English. I feel that enrolling in the evening school and studying English is the best thing for me to do because there are many good and experienced teachers.

-Ping Kuen Tam

MY EDUCATION

My name is Elizabeth Orjuela c. I come from Bogota-Colombia, South America. I lived in Colombia until 1980. I began elementary school in 1963 and finished in 1967. The High School began in 1968 and finished in 1973. The University began in 1973. I graduated from The University Santo Tomas de Aquino in 1981 with a degree in accounting.

I like to study because now I can learn English. It is very important to know the language of the country where I live.

-Elizabeth Orjuela C.

There are twenty five of us and one teacher in this classroom. We are from the same country. Everybody studies English hard because we know that if you live in America you must talk English all the time. We believe we will be able to speak a lot of English after a few years.

-Ching Mak

We go to evening school on Wednesdays and Fridays at six o'clock. In the class, we make many new friends. There are many men and women in the class. They came from different cities. The students learn English in the class. At nine o'clock, the students go home happy.

-Yi Ping Loo Hoo

To Be Literate

To be literate means: "The ability to read and write". When you learn how to read, it is like opening a window to a new world that you never knew before.
It is very interesting when you can read a newspaper, a magazine, books and letters that you received from family and friends.
Finally, you also can fill out application forms. you don't have to ask anyone else to read important papers or a secret love letter for you.
It is so wonderful! Isn't it?

-Dago Cruz

Thanks to the I.L.G.W.U. English classes and the teacher who has helped me alot in English. Without him I think I would have needed more time to learn. I think I learned more English than I could imagine. It was only twice a week, after work, but sometimes I couldn't come to class because I wasn't working or feeling well. The name of this teacher is Terry Haines. He is the best teacher I ever saw. Everybody in the classroom thinks the same thing. Terry Haines is a very good teacher.

-Edelmira Velez

Learning English is fantastic. Not at the beginning because it was very difficult to understand the meaning of the words. But then after two and a half years, everything is different. Now I can understand, write and speak. Not good enough yet, but I am sure sooner or later, I will speak English well because I want to learn more and more.

-Edelmira Velez

Our English teacher is an overseas student from China. He has been teaching our class for two months. He lives in Brooklyn. He came to New York last year. He had lived in Massachusetts for two years. He is not married. Besides teaching English, art and smoking are his favorite hobbies.

- student from Xia Qui's class

My name is Renya Catto. The English class is very difficult. The English language is very difficult. I want and need to learn English to get a better job. I also want to speak , write, and understand so I can go to the movies.

- Renya Catto

English is an important language. I thank you, Local 23-25 I.L.G.W.U. for establishing English classes. I like my teacher because he is very friendly but a serious teacher.

-Chang Yi

My name is Olinda E. Jeva. I come from Ecuador. Since I came to America, I have wanted to learn English but I have to work to earn a living.
Now I have the opportunity. I want to practice because English class is very interesting. I have a very nice teacher. His name is Ted Kenny.
I have to thank the I.L.G.W.U. for this beautiful program and I hope it will continue.

-Olinda E. Jeva

Today I ran to take the train to come to work and even though I ran, I was late for work.
In the afternoon,again I ran to go shopping before I went to class. Fortunately, when I got to class it was not too late. I saw my teacher teaching the class, and all the students were paying attention to his explanation. He gave me my dictation and I found out that I had many errors to correct. Then my teacher smiled graciously and encouraged me to do good work.
Teacher, I really don't know what to write.

- Ramona Bahar

When I came to America, twenty seven years ago, I had two dreams. One dream was to become an American citizen. The other dream was to get a good job so I could earn a lot of money. I soon found out that without a high school diploma, there was little opportunity to get a decent job.
It was during this time that I met the man who is now my husband. We fell in love and were married two years later We had two children. During this time, one of my dreams had come true...I was an American citizen. I was able to open my own little business to help support my growing family.
It became difficult to work and take care of Sara, my first daughter and my unborn child. I had to sell the business and stay home until Susan, my second child, turned ten years old. It was then that I found factory work. However, working long hours and raising a family left no time to continue my education.
Now, my daughters are adults who are starting their own lives. I was left with time to spare so I decided to go to school and get my G.E.D.
With the help of Local 89-22-1-, I'm learning many things that are helping me prepare for the G.E.D.
Finally, after twenty seven years, my second dream has come true.

- Emma Abelleira

My name is Clara Mosquera. I came to this country in 1968 for the first time. I have two sons and one daughter. My country is Ecuador in South America. Last year, I began to study English. My teacher is Terry Haines. I study in The Union Label Department of The International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

-Clara Mosquera

"A Message About How I Improved My English"

Before I came to this country, I had a private teacher that taught me to read and write in English. He always said that if I knew grammar, it would be easier to speak and understand English.

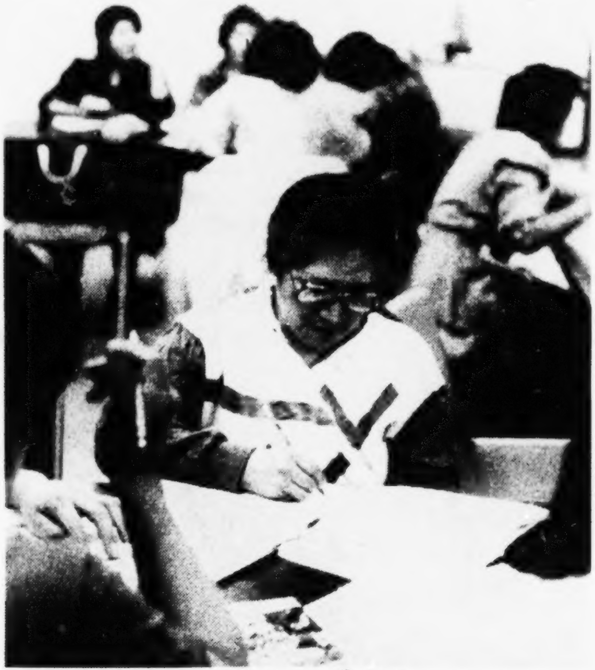
When I came to this country years ago, my first bad experience was when I went to Lincoln Hospital in New York City. I asked a lady who was sitting next to me for help because I couldn't speak or understand English. When the time arrived, I was called by the doctor. She refused to help me. Then I started crying. I told myself I had to go to school in order to learn English and help myself.

Later on, I started to work in the factory. After a month, I became a union member of the local 23-25. At the union meeting, they told the members all the benefits we had and one of them was the English class program. I felt very happy about it and I began to come to school. During the first and second year I began to understand and to speak a little bit. One day I asked Cathy Andrade, the director of The Education Department,of Local 23-25. I wanted to know when the program would be expanded for students who had some knowledge of the English language. She answered that I would have to wait. After a few years, the union sent a letter to the members about a new program that had expanded. I started on Level 3, went to level 4 and now I'm in Basic Education. So believe me, I feel very proud about how I have improved in English. I can read, write, understand and talk. I never believed that this time would come. I feel very happy about it. Thanks to God and my efforts, I made myself learn English.

I have a better job as a sample maker and I belong to the executive board of my local. From these experiences, I suggest that all the students continue to come to class. Do not get tired. Be interested in order to learn. It is very important and necessary. I want to say thank you to our manager, Edgar Romney, to Local 23-25 and to the education department for giving us the opportunity to have this program for its members to learn English.

- Lazara Perez

My teacher asked me to write an article for our union magazine. I want to tell something to help the ones who leave school without finishing.
I want to tell my own experience. I was born in Puerto Rico. My family was wonderful. I went to school and studying became the most important thing in my life. When I finished junior high, I found the economy of my household had fallen and I was compelled to leave school. That was the hardest decision in my life. I left but always wanted to go back to school. Time passed and it was impossible for me to go back to school. I kept studying and reading so that I would not forget what I knew. Then I got married and had my two daughters. Years passed and things became worse in my marriage and I divorced. I left Puerto Rico and I came to New York. The first thing I did here was try to go back to school. This was twelve years ago. For one reason or another, I could not do it. I started to work in a factory. I made enough money to live but I did not feel satisfied. I thought if I studied I could have a better job and better living conditions. That time was hard for me. I kept myself waiting for an opportunity and my union, I.L.G.W.U., gave me that opportunity.
Now I am in school, Thank God, and I am very happy. I am in a G.E.D. class and I'm enjoying it a lot. My teacher is a wonderful teacher who has helped me a lot. With God's help, nobody is going to stop me from studying to see what I can do.
To all of you young people. Learn from my experience. Don't leave school. I'm a lady of more than fifty years and I feel so happy studying. Please stay in school. Don't leave before you finish. Studying and learning is the only way to stay out of trouble and you will have a better life.



"My Dream Became True"

My name is Vilma and I come from the country named Guatemala. I have been living in The United States for fourteen years with my two children. They were both born here but I felt sad because they were citizens of this country and I was an illegal alien. Although I was living here like any other citizen, the problem I had was that I could not go back to my country. I have not gone there since I came to The United States.

I heard on the news something about a possible amnesty but time was going on and nothing happened. In May, 1987, the signature of President Reagan made the dream of many people come true.

Well, I did not know what to do so I went to an attorney. He told me that he was going to help me but I had to pay him $1,300 and I was going to do it. Then, somebody told me that the union where I am a member was giving help to illegal aliens so I called and made an appointment. When I got there a social worker explained to me that all the information was going to be confidential and he also told me in a very nice manner that I should not be afraid because they were there to help me or anybody else. Then all my fears disappeared because I wasn't afraid any longer about being double crossed.

Mr. Fabian Ospina, a union social worker, kindly explained the process and all the document I'd have to show at the immigration office, one of the places I thought I'd never get to visit. He even stood by my side all the time I was there, giving me his support until I received my work permit, I.D. card and my social security number.

Last October I received an appointment from the immigration office to pick up my temporary residence I.D. card.

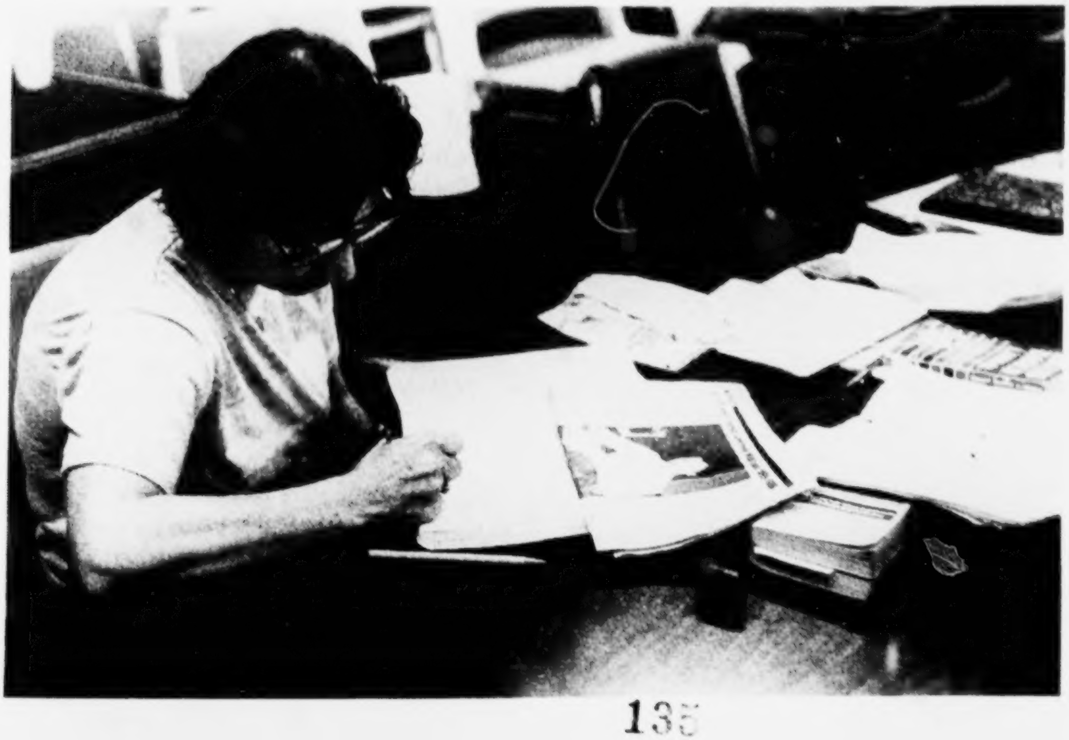
I'm very grateful to The Ladies Garment Worker's Union as well as all the social workers that helped me through that difficult time. Moreover, they helped me with their support, kindness and patience. They did this without any interest and that really helped me to make my dream come true.

-Vilma E. Cloche

CONVERSATIONS

Miss Ramirez: Good morning, Mr. Foster.
Mr. Foster: Good morning, Miss Ramirez.
Miss Ramirez: I have something to tell you.
Mr. Foster: What is it?
Miss Ramirez: I am going to learn . . .
Mr. Foster: What are you going to learn my friend?
Miss Ramirez: I am going to learn to speak English.
Mr. Foster: Good! That is an excellent idea.
Miss Ramirez: I don't speak English now.
Mr. Foster: Don't you? Well, you are going to speak it perfectly.
Miss Ramirez: You are very kind. I know English is not very difficult.
Mr. Foster: That is true if you practice everyday.
Miss Ramirez: But I feel foolish every time I make a mistake.
Mr. Foster: Don't be afraid of mistakes.
Miss Ramirez: My sister and my father are also learning English.

by Julia Ramirez



I like my English class because I am learning to write and speak English well. All the students in my English class are interesting because they are from different countries, therefore, I learn about their cultures.

When I came to English class, I had no friends. Now I am happy because I have many friends in the class. I would like to recommend this English class to those people that want to learn English.

by Nancy Filpo

Since I came to New York I asked somebody about an English school, and they told me about the ILGWU school. Then I found out about the school and the following week, I started English class.

I'm learning English and many more things. Also we have a very active teacher. I think he is one of the best teachers at the ILGWU school. He is a very smart man. He is a good fellow. I'm satisfied because I'm learning alot of English. Now, I can read any sign in the street, in the train, etc. When the train crew is talking, I can understand everything they are saying.

by Antonio Romelis

I have been in the United States for over 15 years. So far I have never forgotten the hard time in the first few years of my life in America. I never thought school was so important until I found the need to learn more English. I didn't know a word of English. I felt very stupid and ignorant. I was not able to go to the store, even to buy a loaf of bread in Chinatown. Sometimes I was caught in traffic and lost my way home. That caused me to be extremely nervous. So I decided to go to school. Finally. I went to the evening adult school at Local 23-25 ILGWU. Now I feel alive again. I made alot of friends and I started to do things without the need of anybody. I still can't speak English well but I can make myself understood more. For all these, I must say thanks to the school and especially to my teacher, who is teaching me with alot of patience and has given me the opportunity to learn even more English in the future.

by Doris Gee

POETRY

AND LITERATURE

MOON FESTIVAL
IN THE UNITED STATES

The moon is big
The moon is bright
The children play under the moon
We eat mooncakes and fruit--
bananas, oranges and apples
Together we are happy
We want to fly to the moon...

Citizenship Class
April 1988

Tran Chung Minh
Dan yee Mok
LAI THI THO
LEUNG LAI HING
Le Xiao Long
K.C. Chan
Chi Pern Mak

NEW YORK CITY

N ew York is the most beautiful city
E veryone would like to live here,
W onderful city of New York

Y ou can see the future
O ur future is New York City
R eaching great heights with
K indness forever

C ould be the best way
I f one finds opportunities
T his is the land of dreams
Y ou have a challenge, here in the city

C oming from many countries, now
I nto our hearts with hope
T ommorrows will always open new lives for
Y ou and me, HELPING HAND UNITE

Group poem by:
Randee Silverman's Class

DO YOU WANT TO LIVE HERE?
I ANSWERED, YES.

walk
work
name
address
train
food
hello

Beware of traffic and
take care on the subway
Beware of dogs and
don't touch wet paint
Don't forget
your map or
your keys
Always be on time
Don't waste
your money on those slot machines

Are you
learning
a new way
of life?

May I
help you?
It is not

How do
you feel?
I feel very well

Do you want to learn English?
Do you want to share thoughts?
Do you want to live here?

I answered, yes.

Group poem by:
Randee Silverman's Class

FRIENDSHIP

I like having
very close friendships

Friendship is the feeling
in the deep of the heart
a love for all people
a love for my husband
an understanding when someone
is very nice
Friendship is the most
beautiful of the life

For me, friendship is always
feeling love for a person
who keeps my secrets

A feeling you have towards
your friends
When I have friendship
my life is very good for me

We are all friends
feeling friendship
living here in the city
of love and friendship

True friendship
demands love
love and life, life and death
happiness and sadness
When I lose some friends
I cry, I cry
Friendship makes easier the life

Friendship is wonderful
if another person feels the same
friends come, friends go
but friendship always stays
Everyone wants a true friend

Friendship lies in the mind
I want feeling, life, heart, love
everything
Explain it:
wonderful people
beautiful flowers
color, expression
All souls walking together
talking, sharing, dreaming
through every road

alone and in friendship

I like having
very close friendships

Group poem by
Randee Silverman's Class

REMEMBER

You are very distant
but I look at you from here,
I dream with you every instant
and in my dreams you are here.

I sing for you my songs
that make me remember
about a yesterday
I look at you with my eyes
that have spilled many tears for you.

by Olmedo Guevara

MOTHER'S DAY

Wonderful gift
A tiny one
Beautiful face
Lovely heart
Smart and rich
My mother was

by Dago Cruz

With all my affection
today, tomorrow and always
there are no words
that can express
how much I love you.

That is why I will
repeat it again, that
you are my happines,
that you are present
in all my dreams.

There is nothing more
beautiful than to remember
special people like you.

by J. Geuis C.

HAIKU

The moon is pretty
It sparkles in the bright sky
It shines bright again.

by Melva Flores

The water is bright
The river is beautiful
The stone is big.

by Marlene Molina

The picture is green
It sparkles like a diamond
The beautiful trees.

by Ismael Canales

The whispering wind
is blowing in the calm air
The wheat is there.

by Luis Montalvo

The slow smoking sky
The big house before the hills
a snow covered roof.

by Santiago Zaragon

The river is running
There is a river
The trees surround.

by Domingo Duran

The sky is a blue
The water is calm and bright
The blue water shines.

by Francisco Carrion

On a summer day
The mountains look very beautiful
The rainbow is there.

by Luz Diaz

The pretty horse running
Climbs and jumps in the green field
The sky is blue

by Florence Chen

The sleeping mountains
With the white cloudy dark sky
They are soft and gray.

by Amanda Mora

This flower is big
It is different colors
I like this flower.

by Leonor Vasquez

The pretty green trees
They are relaxed and peaceful
They sparkle brightly.

by Consuelo Traheta

A SERIES OF LIE POEMS

I'm as good as a photographer
I have taken pictures of some
famous movie stars.

In fact, I took Price Charles
and Lady Diana's wedding
pictures.

They were the best pictures
I have ever taken.
My pictures came out in
all the newspapers in
the world.

by Nury Medina

I am as elegant as Linda Carter

In fact, I am so smart that all
my friends envy me because I
have so many boyfriends who call
me all the time.

I am so chic that when I walk on
Madison Avenue everybody looks
at me.

I am so posh that all the best
looking men want to date me.

by Carmen Riso

I am as poor as a homeless
person.

In fact, I'm so poor I don't
have any new clothes and
somethimes I don't have
anything to eat.

by Orazia Giassa

I am the best dancer in the world.

In fact I am such a good dancer
that they consider me the most
famous one in the universe.

I have danced in every theatre
of the world.

by Maria Jimenez

Manhattan is as beautiful as a
rainbow.

My friend is as skinny as a
toothpick.

The mountain is as tall as
me.

The stone is as strong as
me.

I am so strong that I can kill
a horse with my fists.

by Jorge Maldonado

I am as tall as Brooke Shields.

In fact, I am so tall that all my friends envy me, because all the best designers want to date me. I am so tall that all the major T.V. networks are fighting to make me a fashion model.

by Clara Paez

I am the best singer in the world.

In fact, I am more famous than
Maria Collos.
All my friends envy me, because
I am the most popular singer
of all times.
I sing like a bird.

by Ana Gennari

I am as rich as Mr. David Rockefeller.
I am so wealthy that I can have everything I want.

In fact, I can visit many cities as I want in the world.

by Maria Sanchez

I am as thin as a worm.

In fact, I am so skinny that sometimes people confuse me for a walking spaghetti. I am so skinny that my friends use me as a toothpick.

by Katrina Staceviciene

I am as good as Mother Teresa.

In fact, I am so kind that all the needy people of the world come to me to look for help.

by Maria Taborda

I am as charming as Cinderella.

In fact, I am so nice that all the T.V. networks want me to start my own talk show.

by Rosaura Calderon

I am as energetic as Wonder Woman.

In fact, I am so active that when I go shopping I can shop at three or four department stores in a few minutes.

by H. Carrillo

I am as happy as Bob Hope
I am so happy that I
feel like giving some of my
happiness away.

by Aida Rovolino

I'm as strong as Mohammed Ali.

I'm so powerful that all my
friends envy me, because all
the best looking men want to be
such good fighters as I am.

I'm so intimidating that the
N.Y. Police department wants
to make me an officer.
But I don't want to.
I just want to be a street
fighter.

by Seung D. Kim

I'm as creative as Pablo Picasso.

In fact, I'm so talented that
all my friends think my art work
is gorgeous. I'm so good at what
I do that I have had exhibitions
of my art work in the most famous
galleries in the world.

by Cruz Corona

I'm as studious as a bookworm.

In fact, I'm so smart that all
my friends envy me because
I pass all my exams all the
time and I still have time to go
to the parties and have a good
time.

I am so ingenious that they will
soon recognize me as the Albert
Einstein of 1988.

by Mario Mino

I am as fat as an elephant.

I am so big that I can eat tons
of food without stopping and I
still feel hungry.

I don't even stop eating when
my Doctor says I am going to
have serious problems with my
health.

by Etelivino Mosquera

I am as clever as Mr. Wong.

In fact, I am so smart that all
my friends envy me because all the
most beautiful women want to study
with me. I am so intelligent
that all the teachers are
fighting to make a star.

by Ku Wo Kwan

I am as mean as Count Dracula.

In fact, I am so bad that I
don't have any friends.
I am so nasty that all the
major T.V. networks are fighting
to make me an actress in Dynasty
to compete against Alexis.

by Maria E. Duarte

SPRING

It is a nice day in the spring season.
All the trees have buds, the grass is turning green.
Some of the flowers begin to bloom.
Look at this nice blossom!
Birds sing early in the morning.
Squirrels get out and hop in the yard.
The wind is warm. The sky is blue and clear.
I feel happy and more energetic.
I don't want to work.
I want to get out.
Come on, everyone. Come with me.
Let us travel around the world!

by Po Yee Lam

Myths

How the Fish Got Their Colors

There was going to be a beauty contest. So all the fish went to their beauty parlor to get different kinds of makeup for this beauty contest. This makeup was put on so nicely that the judges had a hard time making up their minds on the winner.

The judges picked three fish that they thought were the most beautiful ones. The first was the speckled perch, the second was a red snapper and the third was the bluefish.

They were all beautiful fish and since the judges couldn't give them all a prize, they gave them a party. This is how we got different colored fish.

Julia Gilmore

Variations of the above myth

Off they went to the beauty parlour. Ms. Red Snapper flopped into the first chair. She was so excited she couldn't sit still. "Make my fins pink," she shouted. Mr. Whiting worked quickly and finished her fins. "No, no, no. They look terrible. Make them red." What a pain!, thought Mr. Whiting but the customer is always right so he changed the color.

Meanwhile, Ms. Flounder stood still waiting for her turn. "Come on," said Mr. Shark. "We haven't got all day." Ms. Flounder gingerly sat down. "Please choose some colors for me." Mr. Shark went about his work with great zeal! Suddenly Mr. Catfish appeared. He stood at the door amazed at what was going on. "Why don't you paint your tail a brighter color?" he said to Ms. Flounder. "Why don't you sit still Ms. Red Snapper!" he yelled. Mr. Catfish spent so much time telling everyone else what to do he didn't have an opportunity to color himself before everyone had to leave for the contest.

Celeste Arjune and
Linda Levin (teacher)

Once there was a pond and on this pond there were many fishes of different breeds. The red snapper was talking to the others concerning the beauty contest. Suddenly a beautiful mermaid appeared and everyone was startled. She was so colorful and pretty that they wanted her to advise them how to become beautiful like her. She invited everybody to come to her beauty parlour to be made up. The mermaid painted them various colors and they became so beautiful the judge had a hard time deciding the winner.

Louisiane Pierre
Rosita Caliz and
Betty Banks

Once upon a time there was a beauty contest for the fishes. So most of the fishes decided to go to the beauty contest. First they decided to go to the beauty parlor to put on some makeup. They went to the beauty parlor by Rockefeller Center. The building was an antique construction made out of white bricks with the designs of colored fish.

Inside the parlor they had three steps and then they had a large room with wall mirrors and pictures of the work they were doing. The people that worked in the parlor had friendly smiles that made you feel relaxed. They worked fast and with skill that made the crab look like a doll. Some required light makeup and some required a lot of makeup.

Antonia Vita and
Sam Naraiwar

So they went into the beauty parlor and sat down. Then they started to mumble. Then the one that planned the trip to the contest said, "Well, here we come. Who is going to be the first one to put on the makeup?" They all started to say to one another "You go first,"but none of them wanted to try it first. So they all insisted that the smallest fish go get makeup put on first. The small fish had no choice so she went and got the makeup put on. When she got up from the seat and turned around and looked at the rest of the fish, they all were speechless. They were shocked to see that the small, ugly little fish looked so good and they all went and got their makeup put on.

Sam Naraiwar

After the makeup they went to the beauty contest. The place was on Fifth Avenue. The name was La Mirogge. It was a French restaurant with the restaurant on the ground floor and a night club on the 1st floor. On your right side you saw a door that took you to the upper floor. You came to a small entrance which was decorated with beautiful plants and hand paintings by famous artists. At your left you saw a door with an usher who collected coats for the evening. That way you did not have to worry that anyone would steal your coat. At the left of this coatroom was a door to the night club, a large room decorated with such talent. The floor had a rich, thick carpeting, on your far left at the center you found a horseshoe bar with the wall covered with mirrors in which you could see the entire room. At the far right of the room you found a stage with a balcony on each side where the judge sat and the rest of the room was filled with tables and chairs where the public sat. Behind the stage was the dressing room with gowns hanging with the names of the contestants on them.

The contestants entered from the right side of the stage, walked from right to left in front of the judge and then they stood in the back of the stage. All the contestants showed excellent talent and beautiful gowns. The judge had a hard time finding the winner.

That's how the fish got their color. It was determined through the color of the gowns and makeup.

Antonia Vita

VENUS' MYTH

(Inspired by a picture of running water)

A long time ago there was dry land with no fish. Just a few could live. Who have lived there had to go far away to get water to live.

A giant lived on the top of the mountain. He put all the water on the top of the mountain in his pond. So no one could use it.

One day a little boy went up to the mountain to ask the giant for the water. The giant said, "If you can answer my question, then I can give you water." He gave him a big stone and a small box. He wanted him to put the big stone in the small box. "If you can do it, I will give you water," said the giant. The little boy was very smart. He cut the stone in half. He put half in the box and the other half on the top of the stone. The giant could not say no. Then he opened the hold and the water ran down the mountain. Since that time the bottom of the mountain has had water.

Venus Wai

The Sun and the Moon

The sun and the moon came from the same family. They were sister and brother. They lived in a happy family. But since their father died, their mother became very sick. No one could work in the family so their living was getting to be a problem. Both the young sister and brother had to work and support their living. "Who is going to take care of our mother while we are both working?" the sister asked. The brother got an idea. He said, "Either you or me work in the daytime or nighttime so one of us can take care of mother while the other one is working." So the sister chose to work during the daytime because she was afraid to walk in the dark. But she was a very shy girl. Every morning when she came out of the house, her face got so red. Until now we can still see how red, how nice when the sun comes out in the morning.

The brother worked hard all night. He was collecting the woods in the forest. Today, when there is a full moon, we look up at the moon and we will see there is a big tree. The brother was under the tree.

Diana

Stories

QUADRUPLETS

One day Yuk Lin went to New Jersey to go shopping. She saw a very interesting sight. She saw a couple who had four babies. She had never seen quadruplets in her life.
Their father went to buy two cups of ice cream and then each parent fed two babies. When the father fed one baby, the other one started crying. But when he gave the second one some ice cream, then the first one started crying.

-Amy Liang, Yuk Lin Sun, Choi Ha Leung,
Gui Lam Huang, Yim Mark

IT IS NOT A MISMATCH

Two years ago, a young man and a young lady fell in love when they were in college. They always went to the park, went swimming or to the movies. Every night, they talked on the phone. After that....
They got tired of that. They didn't want to see each other for a certain length of time. So they each needed to meet a new friend. They wanted a computer to help them. The day came when they met by the computer. It was very awkward. "Hmm. It is you. It is not a mismatch!"

- Po Yee Lam, Guo Qi Mei,
Ng Mui Leung, Li Chu Chao

A CRAZY THIEF

One day a thief went to steal the bell of his neighborhood. When he touched the bell, it started ringing. Since he was stealing the bell, he didn't want the bell to ring. So he used cotton balls to put into his ears. Then he was going to steal the bell, but it rang very loudly. The neighbors heard the sound. But the thief didn't hear anything. When the neighbors caught him, he didn't know what had happened.

-Yee Ping Lee, Wing Bon Lau,
Karen Ng, Yuk Ping Chan

MONKEYS PICK UP THE MOON

One day there was a group of monkeys who were playing together beside a well at night. Suddenly, one monkey saw the moon in the well. He thought the moon had fallen in the well. Then he called his friends to help him pick up the moon. They went hand by hand into the well. When they put their hands into the well to pick up the moon it disappeared. At that time, one monkey saw the moon in the sky. He thought his friends were crazy.

-Yue Oi Lui, Lai Goon Chan, So Ha Ng,
Ai Ping Chao

This picture is about two sisters. They are living in Queens. They are very cute and very happy.

- Wai Hing Wong

Everything in this world has colors. There are many colors, white, blue, red, yellow, green, gray, brown, black and orange. Some things have more than one color. Tigers are orange with black stripes. Parrots have green and yellow feathers.

-Hui Ling Li

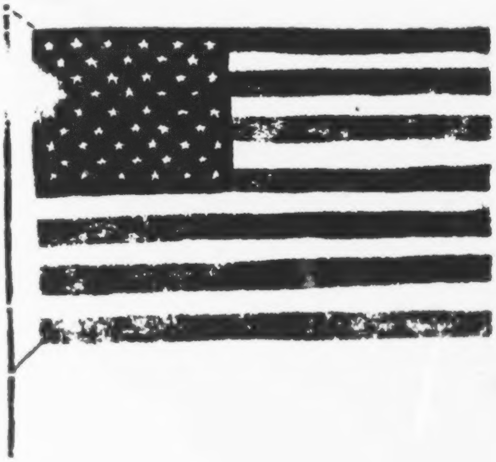
Parrots have green and yellow feathers.

Mr. Jones is a handsome man. He's eating dinner in the restaurant. The waiter is serving him. He's very happy.

-Chiang Mei Ying

This is a Chinese girl. She was born in New York. Her name is May. She's four years old. She has one sister but her sister is older than her. They're very cute. They live in Flushing. They speak English well because they go to school.

-Mui Ling Chan



This is an American flag. Its colors are red, white and blue. It has fifty stars and thirteen stripes. There are seven red stripes and six white stripes. I love America. I love the American flag too.

-SuQuing Wu

FORGIVE ME FOR FALLING IN LOVE

While I was in high school, I had a "love experiece." I used to think it was foolish for teenagers to fall in love. I thought no teenager could feel what love really is until I experienced it.

There was this special girl who caught my attention during my high school years. Her name is Gloria C. She is a pretty girl who didn't know at that time that I liked her. Well, I decided to let her know.

On February 12, 1987, I sent her a Valentine's card. On the card I wrote to her that I was interested in her, but I didn't sign my name; she didn't know it was me, but her best friend Nerida M. recognized my handwriting and told her.

Well, nothing happened for a month, until I was transferred to a classroom where Nerida was. I decided to talk to her, so that she could help me "get closer" to Gloria. But something different occurred. I began liking her, her attitude, her manners, her looks.

I forgot about Gloria. My mind was set on Nerida. Day by day I liked Nerida more and more. There was a "point" where I had to let her know my feelings toward her. But it was worse than I thought; by the time I told her about my feeling, I loved her.

On Friday, April 24, 1987, I went to the building where she lives. By coincidence she appeared. I said to myself, "now is the time", so I told her; "Nerida, there's something I must let you know" I had a feeling she knew what I was going to say. She looked straight into my eyes. I continued; "Nerida, I like you, and I know you don't feel the same for me, but I had to let you know anyway". She answered; "What happened with Gloria?" I said "I thought I liked her, but I don't". She kept looking at me as she started walking upstairs.

The next day, I called her up. She told me; "there's nothing to talk about" and she told me she would talk to me on Monday as a friend.

When I saw her at school I said "Hi, Nerida" but she didn't answer. I understood. She will ignore me forever.

From May 'till January when I graduated, Nerida stared at me whenever we passed by, but said not one word to me, neither did Gloria. I don't blame them at all.

It's been a year since I went through this experiece, and until this very day, I haven't forgotten about it and I don't regret any minute of it because it was the first (and only) time that I have fallen in love.

I don't feel ashamed about this whole experiece: Was it my fault? If it was forgive me for falling in love.

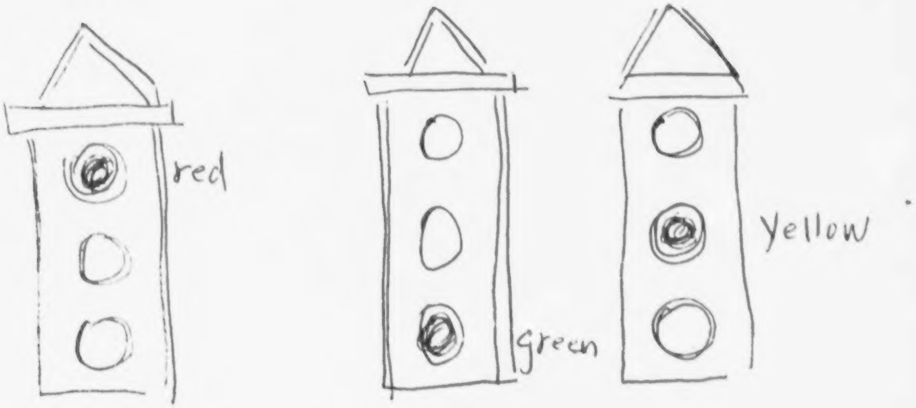
by Victim of Love

These girls are very beautiful. They are in Taiwan. They all wear short skirts. They all have long hair. The middle one is pointing at something.

-Shu Hua Li

Colors help us to follow rules. A red light means stop. A green light means go. Sometimes there is a yellow light. Yellow means be careful.

- Feng Ling Chen



I have a friend. She is a nurse. She is beautiful. Her name is Linda. She is twenty years old. She likes to play tennis and go swimming. She likes to eat apples and oranges. She is from Hong Kong. She lives in New York now. She is a cute girl.

-Ru Zhel Yu

Her name is Tina. She's seven years old. She lives in Manhattan. She's very beautiful and she's very intelligent.

-SuQiong Wu

His last name is Cheng. He is forty-two years old. He is a fat man. He is talking. He lives in New York City.

-Liang Wu Zheng

EDITORIALS

Better Life

To make a better world, President Reagan and Premier Gorbachev would have to discuss peace and make a link between the two great nations to combat the war and reduce the nuclear weapons. Then we might have more serenity around the world. So the solution is to sign a treaty to better life for Russian people, American people and all the countries to save the world.

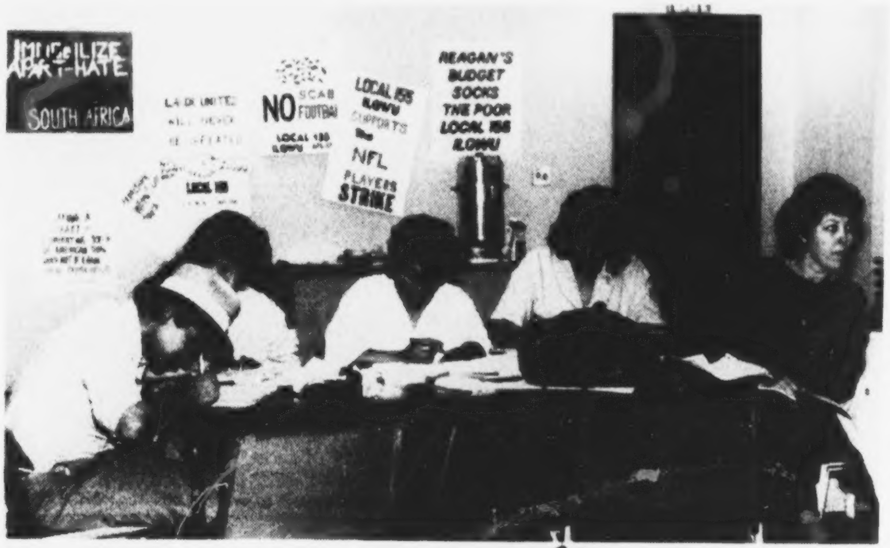
-Jose Fernandez

Good friends in life are important. Everyone needs his own good friends. Otherwise, how bleak our life would be without good friends. I remember my childhood. When I was a little boy, I had many close friends. We played together. We went to school and studied together. We grew up together. When we had a problem, we helped each other. Our childhood was perfect. But in order to pursure democratic life, my family left China to come to The United States with me. At first, I didn't have any friends. I felt lonely. I realized good friends are very important. Now, I have known many good friends in my life and at work. I have become happy. The primary joy of life is in accepting companionship. We have to understand that the need for fellowship is really as great as the need for food.

- XinChang Chen

Today, when I went to my house, I thought about the poor children in my neighborhood. I wondered about the people who will help these children. Then I turned my face and saw three boys in a day care center. I felt happy because somebody was doing something for the children in my neighborhood.

- Jose Bernardo Matos


SOUTH AFRICA
NO SCAB FOOTBAL
LOCAL 155 ILGWU SUPPORTS the NFL PLAYERS STRIKE
REAGAN'S BUDGET SOCKS THE POOR LOCAL 155 ILGWU

Drugs

"Stay away from drugs"

I have been asking myself this question: Why do youngsters, adults, and old people fall down in the drug world? Really, I don't know what it is or what the cause is. What pushes them or drives them?

This is a bad problem that affects our society. We can not blame our parents for everything that we do. They can give us good advice. They can be good models but we don't take their advice. They can show us how to do good things but they cannot force us to do it.

We know that our fathers always want the best for us, "their sons". For example: I never have his problem becaue I set my mind to my books with a strong purpose. I have been avoiding the fictitious world of drugs and I have lived the reality.

I was in the army. Then they sent me to another country and you know when a person is far from his home, far from his parents, families and friends, he feels so alone. His memories come to his mind and he finds himself so alone in a foreign country but this is not the reason to take refuge in drugs. I always try to live the reality and turn these thoughts into a book.

I know how it feels when you find yourself alone and the drugs are around you. People who smoke, drug addicts and an easy way to get the drugs. Any person can fall down but if you set your mind with a purpose you never fall. I know that nothing and nobody can make you change the way you think.

I am more than twenty years old and I have never tried to use any kind of drug and I feel so proud of myself for not doing it and I will never do it.

I keep all my mental aptitudes in good condition. I'm able to follow studying any skill. It doesn't matter how hard a problem can be, drugs are not the solution. For hard and good times, for difficult responsiblities that you have to face; try all the ways that are possible to find solutions.

Don't avoid the reality and take the easy way that is refuge in drugs. Don't escape. Face it. Because later the easy way is going to be the hard way. To get away from this road will be very difficult for you. So stay away from them and you'll never have a single problem.

- Carlos Caicedo

Inside the souls of men, nestle two opposite and correlative powers that make us act. One exists at the expense of the other one, for one is the necessary measure for the existence of the other one. These two powers: pleasure and pain, act like interior alarms, and they connect us to reality telling us if we are acting good or bad. We must let these alarms act freely, without stimulation from artificial means. If we feel pleasure, it is because we are acting well. The pain should be freely accepted by us to purify our sentiments. Then we will be more sensitive.

There are people with austere and sacrificial tendencies; other people with tendencies toward pleasures and a hedonistic life, who are always trying to avoid the pain. With these ideas I am not against medical science for they help avoid the physical pain in some diseases. It is necessary for the existence of this pain for you must fight against it, in order that you can grow and achieve new heights.

The people who have altered their organisms are falling for a trick. The punishment from the infuriated gods does not wait for the people who alter the rules of the game. Thus, the pleasure of the drugs each time taken becomes one insuperable nightmare. Their bodies claim more and more pleasure and more and more doses of drugs.

-Patricio E. Narvaez R.

Adult Life

The advantages of having children when you get married, it seems makes all your dreams come true because they bring you happiness and love. You take care of them and give them the best you have; working together with who you love, for their future.

How lovely to have a healthy family, watching them grow in good spirit. This is the best feeling in life for the children and the parents. Therefore love will continue for all generations to come.

One advatage of having children at a young age is that you have a sense of family. Having children growing up with you is a very special feeling. It is exciting to watch children grow and share their experiences while they grow. With a family you could not be lonely. You even can look forward to being cared for in your old age.

The disadvantages of not having children is that as a parent you are restricted, meaning you cannot do as you feel like. Some think that you are bound until the children come of age on their own. The disadvatage of not having children is getting a full night sleep, going to work and not having to care for them Before going to school you don't have to have a lot of candy, food, cookies and milk in the house. Some people do not have patience and do not like the responsibility caring for children.

Another disadvantage of having children is that it costs a great deal of money to raise and educate them properly. Also, when the child is born, the hospital, doctors and medicine are very expensive.

-Collective essay, L. Levin's class

There are many responsibilites for grownups, especially for those who care for themselves. First of all, we have to get a good education. Once we are prepared, we must look for jobs. Then we have to be responsible for the job we have. When we get married, we have more responsibilites. We have to pay bills, take care of the children (if we have any) and also do the housekeeping.

- Mary Nunez

To be a man ..I have nobody to depend on. I have nobody to support me. I have to work very hard to survive, especially if I have brothers, sisters and maybe a mother who is suffering from some disease. She may not be able to get a job or ever go back to work. So as a boy, I had to start working as soon as possible, although perhaps I was only twelve or fifteen years old. That's life and we have to learn how to live better in this world if we want to continue and go on.

- Jose Fernandez

In this life, being a woman is very wonderful. First, the mother shows the daughter how she has to wash her clothes, shine her shoes. That's when she's almost eight or ten years old. She learns how to cook and how to attend to her family, when her mother is working. Then comes the change of life.

She grows and she is able to get married. Then comes other responsibilities. She has babies and has to work and has to take care of the babies.

- Jose Fernandez

When we are babies, boys or girls, it is almost the same because we don't have responsibilities. The only thing we have to do is play. But as time goes on we grow up and there are more responsibilities. During our early years we have to go to school and study hard. After we finish school, we are a man or a woman.

I am a woman and I have many responsibilities; in my house, with my husband, my children, on my job, in my school and with the people whom I see every day.

- Pauline Aeras

Women are considered more intelligent than men. Men felt women were less intelligent because they were not allowed to vote. They stayed home. They took care of their families. Women did not attend school. Men were often educated and got jobs. Women remained uneducated. Because of this situation, women were unfairly considered less intelligent.

But women are more intelligent than men. The old expression, "Behind every great man is a greater women", proves this Great U.S. presidents like Roosevelt and Eisenhower had influential and famous wives. Margaret Thatcher is Prime Minister of England. Corazon Aquino is President of the Phillipines. Great woman powers like Eva Peron and the others mentioned prove that women can be more capable than men.

-a student in
Gerry Benetatos' class

Television

Many people have criticized television for presenting little of value. I don't quite agree that the television has little to offer.

On television we can see many things. There are different kinds of programs such as news, sports, weather, movies, cartoons, etc. It just depends on what kind of program you like. Then you just select the channels.

There is a program called Sesame Street. It is good because it prepares children for school. It offers the little children a lot of fun and knowledge for school. It helps children understand more about going to school; not just learning but having fun while getting along with other kids.

Also, there are educational programs like Nature and Wild America. They help students know more about science and the wildlife of animals and how wildlife develops. I think they are good programs because we live in the city and we hardly have the chance to see wildlife.

For sports fans there are always exciting plays on t.v. The sports fans don't have to go to the stadium. They can still enjoy the game.

For most American families there are always good movies over the weekend like Superman and James Bond. The whole family can watch the movie together. This way they can enjoy the movie with the family and also save money.

Therefore, I would say television offers us a lot in different situations. If there were no television broadcasting, our lives would be missing something. For me, after a hard working day I like to take a couple of leisure hours, switch on the T.V. and watch the news and weather. I try to see how much of the news I can understand. At the same time I am learning and relaxing.

-Diana Chan

The kinds of television programs children should watch are cartoons, Sesame Street, baseball, soccer, swimming and other different programs that try to teach them about the future and about life.
Television programs that are not good for children are crime movies, pornography and where shot guns are fired to kill people. Other programs which are not good are where children learn to smoke marijuana, crack and use cocaine.

-Victor

Children should watch television programs to keep their minds clean and clear. They must be able to think. If they are growing up, their parents must show programs to educate them. They should watch health programs and get away from bad thinking. They should watch programs like Mr. Rogers, Sesame Street and some cartoons.

- Jose Fernandez

Children should watch educational programs becauee children can learn different things. They should watch sports because they can learn to participate in physical activities. They should watch cartoons, mostly for entertainment. These programs are very good for children to watch.

- Ana Quentin

FUTURE EVENTS

Hong Kong will be given back to China in 1997. Many people have left Hong Kong because they have no confidence in The Chinese Government since the policies and administration of China are always changed by the rulers without the agreement of the public.
Many years ago, people in China suffered a lot under communism. Now the government tries as best as it can to improve the standard of living, education, and housing in order to gain the confidence of the people. Nevertheless, the people in Hong Kong still lack confidence in the Chinese government.

-Bronie Pang

LETTERS

Letters of Complaint

Sony Corporation
45-15 Queens Blvd.
Sunnyside, NY 11202

To Whom It May Concern:

I bought a 25" color television, Sony Trinitron. I purchased it March 15, 1988 at Crazy Eddie, 100 Kings Plaza, Brooklyn, N.Y. On April 13, 1988 the television broke. The TV is guaranteed for one year. Crazy Eddie would not take it back!

Please honor my guarantee. I want my television replaced because I paid $400. Please call me when it is ready.

Sincerely,
Carlos Bermudez

Sony Corporation
55 West 55th St.
New York, N.Y. 10019

To Sony Corporation:

I bought a microwave for $260.00 at Macy's Warehouse store. The trademark is "Sony". The size is 65 by 85. When I opened the box the knob for the temperature was missing. Macy's did not have a replacement. Please send me a knob.

Sincerely,
Nelly Espel

A & B Dress Company
1700 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10019

I worked 21 days in March. Your payroll check was incorret. They paid me for 17 days in March. So you have to pay me the rest: 4 days more pay.

Sincerely,
Celia Rosaria

A & B Dresses
1700 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 11019

Dear Representative of A & B Dresses:

I am waiting because I was not paid exactly what I worked. I worked 24 days in March. My payroll check was for 21 1/2 days.

Please pay me for the 2 1/2 days worked in March.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Lidia Guerra

Letters of Protest

New York
June 10, 1987

Mr. Robert Wagner, Jr.

Dear President:

I have information about the English courses that were cut. I am not in agreement with the cuts. There are many students in this country who need to study English as a Second Language. It is very important to learn for the development of people . I am a member of the union and I want to tell you please do something to help us. I hope you take this into consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gerela Pozo

Robert F. Wagner, Jr.
President, Board of Education
110 Livington St.
Brooklyn, New York 11204

Dear President Wagner:

I am very interested in learning English as a Second Language, but the Board of Education's decision to eliminate the number of ESL classes was a wrong decision. These classes are very important to the future of many people who stay in the United States.

The Board of Education should try to expand more courses in different fields. There are many people interested in these courses.

Sincerely,

Miriam Vasquez

Robert F. Wagner,Jr.
President, Board of Education
110 Livingston St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11204

Dear Mr. Wagner:

I am very concerned about the Board of Education's decision to cut the number of classes in my union's English as a second language program. Maybe you have not seen how many union members have been taking E.S.L. classes. You should try to expand the number of classes, not cut them. There are many union members who are mad because if you do not continue the Worker-Family Education Program, we cannot pay for another class. I am hoping that you stop to think about this . It is very important for us. Thank you for your collaboration.

Sincerely,

Marcelo Eugenio

Robert F. Wagner, Jr.
President, Board of Education
110 Livington St.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11204

Dear President Wagner:

I am worried about the Board of Education's decision to cut or cancel many classes in the union's English as a Second Language program. These classes that they gave to us are very important for the people that don't speak English, because this is the way that we can improve our English.

I am disagreeing with that decision that the Board of Education took. I hope they reverse their decision and increase the number of classes.

Thank you for hearing my opinion.

Truly yours,

Yolanda Munoz

October 6, 1987

Robert F. Wagner, Jr.
President, Board of Education
110 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, NY 11204

Dear President Wagner:

I'm writing this letter because I'm really worried about the cut backs in English classes this past year. Many people in my union are waiting to be enrolled.

That's why I urge you to expand the number of classes and not to cut them.

Please understand the workers in my union. We really need this program. I really appreciate whatever you can do in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Guilermina Leon

Dear President Wagner:

I am very concerned about English as a Second Language classes. This is an extremely popular program for us Mr. Wagner. The people from local 23-25 who are interest in learning English were dealt a blow this summer by the New York City Board of Education. Mr. Wagner, there is no sense to the Board of Education's decision. Classes are full and members are learning and we have a backlog of people interested in the classes. The Education Department at the local is hoping to expand the number of classes this fall. More than 200 people are still on the waiting list because of your decision to cut back the program. Mr. Wagner, don't cut the program, please! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ernest Findlay

New York, 10/6/87

Dear Mr. Wagner:

I'm a person who is attending English classes at Local 23-25. I'm very surprised about the decision to cut the number of classes. For me and so many people, these classes are a popular program, especially in the English as a Second Language classes. I hope you and the Board of Education don't cut anymore classes. A large number of workers are waiting for good news. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Argenis Gonzalez

LETTERS OF ADVICE

April 27, 1988

Dear ABBY,

I have been working in a little factory about three years. The owners of this place don't want to be affiliated with the Union because they said that with the Union we only have to work 7 hours a day and this is not good for us.

Last week, I visited a friend of mine. He told me that that isn't true because if we are affiliated to the Union, we would have many benefits like high wages, paid holidays and vacation plus the Health Center where you could go whenever you are sick.

I am confused. Please can you give me some information about it. I really appreciate your help. I am waiting for your answer.

Fabiola

Dear Fabiola,

You need to speak with your co-workers and tell them about the benefits the union gives to all members. When all co-workers have accepted, you can go to the local and explain to the president that you want to become a member of the union.

From,

Judy

Dear Fabiola,

My answer to you is if you are working for the Ladies Garment Industry, you should have to affiliate with the Union because you have more benefits, like holidays, vacation, and you hav the Health Center if you get sick. You also enjoy and have fun with other people.

Nidia

Dear Fabiola,

I think you have to change to another factory, a big factory because the big factories have to be affiliated with a union. They have to work 8 hours and there is overtime too, and paid holidays plus the Health Center. My company has many benefits.

From,

Gladys

Dear Fabiola,

I am giving you the answer to your question about union affiliation. Your friend told you the truth. You work less hours but earn more in wages. The union fights when you have any problem with your job, pays all holidays, and if you are sick, you can go to the Health Center. The benefits are for your family too.

Don't be afraid to affiliate with the Union. Your present boss doesn't want the best for you.

Sincerely,

Abby

Dear Fabiola,

I am giving the answer to your letter where you asked some information about the Union. Well, the Union gives many benefits. So don't miss any more time. You must affiliate with the Union. It's important.

Sincerely,

Bessy

Dear Fabiola,

My opinion about your problem is if you want to work in a small factory, they don't want a union. You have to find a union factory because you have more benefits.

Sincerely,

Maria

Dear Fabiola,

My answer is if you like to affiliate with the union, you have to change jobs. Then you can find a union job. If you are sick you have the Health Center and also you have paid holidays and vacation. There are benefits for you and your family!

From,

Fanny

FRIENDLY LETTERS

Brooklyn, 5/3/88

Mrs. Cecilia Sanchez de Salinas
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Dear Cecilia,

I hope you had a good time on your vacation and I would like you to tell me where you went because in the future, I will go there. Tell me if you took your baby.

Mother says you were very happy and you visited many places. I think so. This city is nice because there are a lot of monuments.

OK my sister. I won't take more of your time. Goodbye!

Your sister,

Gloria Bernitt

New York City, 5/25/88

Dear Students,

We hope that you will continue to write. As you can see, you do an excellent job of it.

If you have any reactions, comments, suggestions please write to us here at the main office of ILGWU. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The Editors
Worker Family Education Program
1710 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

ATTN: Magazine Response

Dear Students:

We challenge you with these math problems. Good luck!

1. Father gave me one hundred dollars. My mother gave me twice as much as my father. I lent my brother one quarter of the money my mother gave me. I used my father's money to buy a jacket. I used the rest of my mother's money to buy a dog. How much was the dog?

2. Mr. Cheng went to the supermarket to buy food. He bought two dozen eggs for $1.50. Apples were four for a dollar. He bought twenty. He bought 3 lbs. of ham at five dollars a pound. He bought twelve cans of soda at 50¢ each. Sales tax was 8%. He paid with a hundred dollar bill. How much change did he get back?

Sincerely,

The students of
Celia Chong's class

P.S. The answers are at the end of the magazine.

ANSWERS TO MATH PROBLEMS

1. The dog cost $150.

Explanation: 2 x 100= 200 (Mother gave me twice as much as father.)
1/4 of 200 = 50 (I lent my brother 1/4 of the money mother gave me.)

200 - 50 = 150 (I used the rest of my mother's money to buy a dog.)

2. Mr. Cheng received $68.68 in change.

Explanation:	2 doz. eggs @ 1.50 =	3.00
	20 apples @ 4/$1	
	20-4 = 5 5 x $1	5.00
	3 lbs of ham @ $5/lb.	
	3 x $5	15.00
	12 cans soda @ 50¢	6.00
	SUB TOTAL	29.00
	8% sales tax	
	.08 x 29.00 =	2.32
	TOTAL BILL	31.32
	Gave $100	
	$100 - $31.32	$ 68.68

Cover photos by Cara Metz